

Honda will build new car for Europe after Rover deal

By David Young

ROVER and Honda of Japan have formally completed the deal which gives each company a 20 per cent share in the other and have disclosed that Honda is to build a new range of cars in the United Kingdom aimed at the single European market of 1992.

The car, which will be developed in two distinct versions — one a Rover with more emphasis on the traditional trappings of walnut and leather and the other a Honda — will be built at Swindon, Wiltshire.

The new cars will meet all European regulations concerning the degree of local content, but inevitably it will lead to complaints from European manufacturers who are already concerned about Nissan and Toyota building cars in Britain to get round import restrictions.

Construction work on the new £300 million car manufacturing plant is already well advanced and Honda has started recruiting to increase its present staff at Swindon from 470 to 1,770.

The new car is likely to be a development of the Honda Accord, a medium-sized car

which will bridge the gap between the existing small-to-medium ranges and the larger executive cars which have already been jointly developed by the two companies.

Rover builds Honda Concertos, a car which is broadly similar to the Rover 200 series, for the European market, and Honda markets the Ballade, a car which is similar to Rover's successful new 400 series.

The two companies also produce an executive car, Rover as the 800, Honda as the Legend.

However the Accord, which is the best selling car in the United States where it is built locally by Honda, has been hampered from increasing its market share in Europe because of import restrictions.

Honda has plans to meet demand for some versions by bringing in US-built cars to supplement sales of the Japanese-built models which have gained a reputation for their reliability and technical prowess.

The new cars will have body panels produced by Rover at Longbridge. Most engines and gear-boxes in the range will

come from Honda at Swindon. Certain models will come with Rover high-performance engines and transmissions produced at Longbridge.

Rover has now formally taken a 20 per cent holding in Honda of the UK Manufacturing (HUM). Honda in return is taking 20 per cent of Rover's shares and paying £30 million in cash to bring the value of the share exchanges to the same level.

The move does little more than cement the financial relations which have existed between the two companies for the past 10 years, Rover executives have privately conceded.

Each company will have one non-executive director on the other company's board. Mr Shoichiro Irimajiri, Honda's senior managing director, will join the Rover board while Mr John Towers, product development director of Rover, will sit on the HUM board.

The collaboration between Honda and Rover dates back to 1979, when they entered an agreement enabling Rover to manufacture cars under licence from Honda.

Residents ignore bomb squad warning

JAMES GRAY



AN ARMY armoured car standing by as a road is closed yesterday while a bomb squad works on explosives left at a former RAF airstrip in Gravesend, Kent. About 100 local residents ignored warnings to leave their homes as army bomb disposal experts moved

in to defuse 15 pipe explosives left over from the Second World War (Tom Giles writes). More than 3,000 people on the Riverview Park Estate were told in January that their homes could be damaged and lives put at risk if work to dispose of the explosives,

placed under a former landing strip, went wrong. Kent County Council, the police and 50 Royal Engineers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit at Chatham, agreed to set up an exclusion zone around the 1,100-house estate after the bombs were

traced by army metal detectors last summer. Operations Crabsack will continue for the next five days, with road blocks set up and aircraft banned from the area. The explosives were intended to destroy the airstrip in the event of a German invasion.

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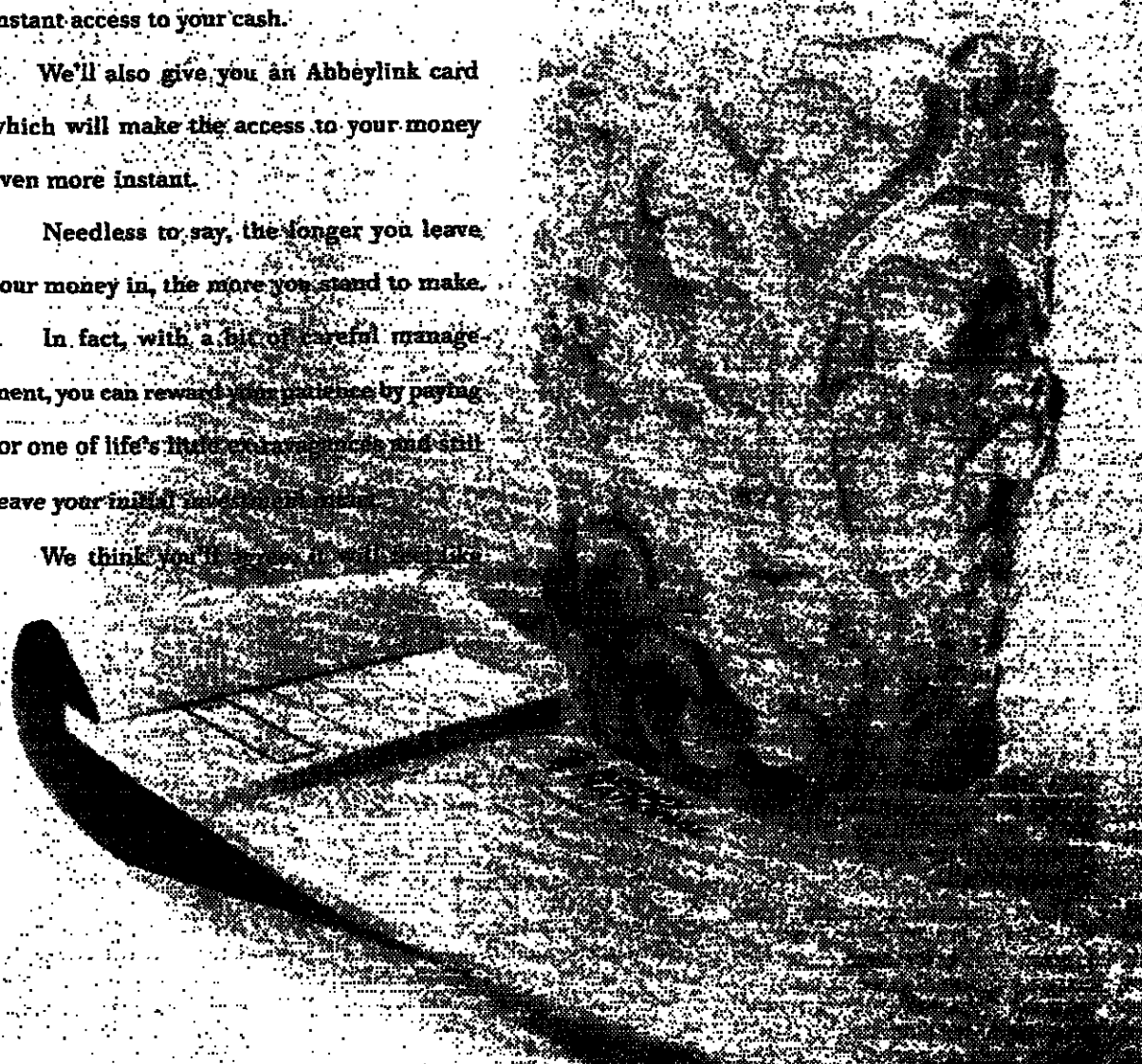
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Iraq 'gun' firm tells of worry on new order

By Craig Seton

ONE of the companies at the centre of the Iraqi "super-gun" allegations said yesterday that the Iraq Ministry of Industry asked it only two weeks ago to proceed immediately with another order for a component that the company feared might be used as a positioning or aiming device.

Yesterday's statement by Eagle Trust, the parent company of Walter Somers Ltd, a forgemaster in Halesowen, West Midlands, disclosed that it had initiated talks to warn the Department of Trade and Industry about the new order from Iraq on April 9, only two days before Customs and Excise officers seized what they believed to be the barrel of a "super-gun" on board a merchant ship on Teesside, ready for shipment to Iraq.

It was believed yesterday that Eagle Trust may have alerted the department about the new order after publicity about 40 nuclear trigger devices bound for Iraq that were seized at Heathrow a week earlier.

Eagle Trust said yesterday that, by last month, Walter Somers had already supplied Iraq with over 120 metres of pipes, with an internal diameter of 350mm, when it received the new order. The pipes supplied to Iraq by Walter Somers were five lengths of 10 metres, one length of 12.5 metres, four lengths of 10.05 metres and two lengths of 10 metres. All had internal diameters of 350 mm. It had also supplied hydraulic equipment.

Labour is to press for an emergency statement in the Commons today over the Teesside discovery (Richard Ford writes).

The Opposition wants Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, to come to the Commons to answer questions about the tubes seized.

Yesterday, Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, demanded an end to the Department of Trade and Industry's "inexcusable silence and evasion" over the affair.

He said that throughout the company's dealings with the Iraqi ministry, it knew of the involvement of Space Research Corporation and ATI, companies connected with Dr Gerry Bull, the ballistics expert murdered in Brussels two months ago.

Eagle Trust said that Space Research Corporation and ATI acted as agents and were the source of technical data relating to orders.

The eight sections of tube seized on Teesside last Wed-



Mr Brown: official silence must be ended

Whips try to curb Hong Kong revolt

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE Party whips will today embark on a final attempt to limit the size of the expected backbench rebellion over the Government's plans to grant passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families.

The Government seems assured of a reasonably comfortable majority tomorrow when the Commons debates the second reading of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill.

However, the business managers remained unsure last night how many of the 80 or so Conservative MPs who have expressed alarm about the proposals would vote against a Bill on which Mrs Thatcher has staked so much authority.

The whips believe Mr Norman Tebbit, the leading Tory rebel on the issue, may have lost some support because of his declaration last month of his readiness to stand in a leadership election if Mrs Thatcher stood down before the next election.

Their objective is to secure as large a majority as possible on the principle of the Bill. This would strengthen the Government's ability to see off the inevitable procedural attempts to block the Bill as it passes through the Commons.

The Government could face its closest votes over the attempt to force all stages of the Bill on to the floor of the Commons, and over the guillotine - it will have to introduce to cut debate on the latter stages.

It seems assured of a majority approaching 40 on the second reading because of the votes of the 22 Liberal Democrats and Social Democrats, other minority party MPs and up to 20 Labour MPs who are unwilling to back the leadership line of opposing the Bill.

Parkinson seeks extra £400m to end flight delays

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE Treasury is to be asked to approve plans by the Civil Aviation Authority to spend an additional £400 million on capital projects over the next decade in an effort by Europe to end delays and congestion in the skies.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, will outline the proposals in Paris next week when he meets his opposite-numbers from 22 European countries in an attempt to set a timetable for the harmonization of air traffic control and the standardization of radars and other vital equipment.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "We do not have time to waste. I expect to see full agreement on the standardization of air traffic control equipment and a detailed

timetable for complete harmonization of air traffic control based on the existing Eurocontrol structure."

Ministers represented on the European Civil Aviation Conference have been shocked by reports showing that the number of flights delayed by more than 15 minutes almost doubled between 1986 and 1989 to about 24 per cent. They have been stung by criticism that they were doing little to find a solution.

"At first sight it would seem that the amount of money which has to be invested is frightening," Mr Parkinson said. "Yet in fact every country is now planning major investments in new air traffic control measures."

"In Britain alone the CAA has now told me that its capital expenditure budget is more than a billion pounds.

Much of that is already earmarked but we will have to argue for the rest through the Treasury."

Until now the CAA has maintained that its capital expenditure budget is £500 million over the next 10 years. However, the need for new equipment, a new air traffic control centre and other infrastructure projects has boosted that figure by a further £400 million. That expenditure will have to be approved by both the Department of Transport and the Treasury.

By bringing forward its plans for a significant increase in expenditure now, the CAA had "grasped the nettle" of improving air traffic control, Mr Parkinson said. But complete integration of Europe's air traffic services may be some way off, he said.

"By harmonizing training procedures and ensuring that all the equipment which is used throughout Europe is compatible, things should be considerably easier," he said.

"In the detailed discussions which have been held so far with officials there is a clear indication of a willingness to co-operate and to work together. I am extremely hopeful that next week's meeting should be productive and lead to positive results."

Mr Parkinson also outlined plans to create a separate organization, under the general umbrella of the CAA, to be responsible for air traffic control. That would act as a half-way house towards complete privatization.

"Obviously I am, in general, in favour of privatization," Mr Parkinson said. "But I feel the public expect any aspects of safety in the air to be underwritten by the Government."

"The most important way forward now is to set up, within the CAA, a completely separate management unit, with its own budget and with its own clearly defined set of responsibilities; to take charge of all air traffic control services."

It is clear that Britain is taking a lead within Europe in forcing some degree of harmonization on to what has become an unwieldy and cumbersome air traffic control organization in advance of the full liberalization of European air services in 1992.

Mr Parkinson said that he was determined that lessons should be learned from the mistakes made in the United States, which saw the emergence of a handful of giant airlines after deregulation.



Steady eye: Lizzy Bone, aged 8, learning the secrets of plate-spinning at a circus workshop held for children at Jubilee Hall, Covent Garden, London, yesterday

Subsidy for channel rail link ruled out by minister

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

MR MICHAEL Portillo, Minister for Transport, seemed yesterday to rule out any prospect of a government subsidy for construction of the £3.5 billion Channel tunnel high-speed rail link.

He told a conference on the regional consequences of the tunnel, hosted in Leeds by Kent County Council, that he rejected all calls to repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act, which prohibits use of government subsidies for international rail services.

Mr Portillo said: "Section 42 accords with the policy of successive governments, Labour as well as Conservative, that one mode of long-distance travel should not be subsidised at the expense of others."

"We see no case for treating rail services differently from sea or air services which are unsubsidised. Any subsidy for international services would give British Rail an unfair advantage over competitors."

"BR already operate InterCity and freight services commercially, without the need for financial support from the Government, and there is no reason why their international services should not enjoy similar success," he said.

The statement was greeted with astonishment by many of the delegates, particularly in light of recent speculation that the Government might consider providing a £1 billion subsidy if Kent commuter services shared the new line.

Mr Portillo refused to be drawn, however, saying only that the Government had received "complex and lengthy" proposals from BR, Trafalgar House, and BICC, which will build and operate the line, which would take time to "digest".

Referring to conflicting forecasts on the level of demand for Channel tunnel services, Mr Portillo said: "There are obvious difficulties in assessing demand for a facility which has not previously been available."

He added, however: "The argument that the taxpayer should subsidise rail services through the tunnel, regardless of the level of demand for such services, is groundless."

"We believe that BR are taking the right way forward, planning to meet the demonstrated, commercially viable, needs of those wishing to travel or transport their goods by rail to the continent."

Mr Portillo said that while

the scale of the Channel tunnel made it the leading transport project in the UK and France, "it will not replace the ferries, hovercraft, hydrofoils, and aircraft which link Britain into Europe."

"The tunnel will be a very substantial and important addition to these existing links," he said. "But the total freight capacity of the tunnel will be sufficient to handle 6 per cent of total UK trade by volume in 1993. By comparison, in 1988 Liverpool handled 7 per cent, Southampton 11 per cent, and Tees and Humber 13 per cent."

Mr Portillo also dismissed criticism that the economic benefits of the tunnel would be biased towards the South-east. "There are great opportunities for the UK generally. The longer distances and time savings will give transport of freight by rail an edge over road, and BR estimate that 70 per cent of rail freight through the tunnel will originate or terminate beyond the South-east."

However, Mr Andrew Brice, a member of the Kent Joint Action Committee, which is trying to get BR to reconsider its rail link proposals, said that he was "horrified" at Mr Portillo's attitude to the link, which he said was "laughably inadequate".

He said: "Britain has a good record on funding short-term solutions. Our canals were built so small that they are virtually useless for carrying cargo. The M25 was built too small and is now having to be widened at enormous expense. This stop-gap short-term solution is now being applied to our railways."

Mr Portillo called yesterday for private sector funds to help foster the continued renaissance of the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

Launching a prospectus detailing private sector investment opportunities in the line, Mr Portillo predicted considerable financial rewards for investors willing to back development of tourist facilities and services along the route.

He said that the line was to undergo a multi-million pound investment programme after which passenger services were expected to double over a million.

The fortunes of the line, one of the most scenic in Britain, have been dramatically reversed since British Rail proposed its closure for commercial reasons.

Industry turns to democratic diner

By Nicholas Watt

THE dispute at a British Aerospace plant over a new canteen in which the management and the rest of the workforce are encouraged to munch their sausage and mash together is the teething trouble of a relatively recent innovation for Britain.

The position of management and unions at BAe's plant at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, remained unchanged last night after a meeting between the two sides yesterday.

BAe maintained that the £400 being paid to managers to use the canteen was to make up the difference between their old and new food subsidies. The company rejected union demands to pay similar sums to the 1,500 manual workers at the plant, saying that there was no change in their working conditions.

There used to be a time when most employees ate in rooms according to whether they were paid monthly or weekly, and at the department store bar of Kensington the management simply could not eat without being shielded behind a cardboard cut-out complete with lace curtains.

However, after the 1971 Industrial Relations Code of Practice recommended the abolition of separate canteens,

things began to change, though not without some resistance.

Ford still has segregated canteens at many of its plants, and a union official reported that one manager said that combined eating facilities would be introduced over his dead body. However, a spokesman for the company said that where workers wanted the new canteens, they would be provided. The union official said they had been asking for them for years, without success.

BAe's Kingston plant was fiercely criticized in a 1981 trade union report for operating a "blatant caste system". A spokesman said yesterday that until a few years ago there were three canteens, two of them next to each other.

Mr Ron Barwood, of the British branch of the European Catering Association, said: "There are not as many single-status restaurants in companies as you might think. But we are better than France, though not as advanced as West Germany."

A spokesman for the Institute of Directors said: "We do not find great hostility to single-status canteens."

"Whether they're installed is a matter of the companies getting round to it."

Mr Flewitt added that Mr Foster was due to stand trial in 1988 at Warwick Crown Court on similar charges. "He fled to America and is believed to be on the Cayman Islands."

Mr Flewitt said Miss Deakin, weighed 22½ stone when she was 17. But in just over a year, entirely due to her own efforts, she had slimmed down to 10st 10lbs. In January 1988, on the day after she had received the award from the magazine, she had received a telephone call from Mr Foster.

"He claimed he was involved with all the stars and he offered to assist her with the publication of her diet," Mr Flewitt said.

"Foster said a diet was not good enough, she needed a product to encourage it. He gave an example of his success, mentioning Bai Lin tea, which was endorsed by the model Samantha Fox." At a

Miss Deakin: Won award after losing 12 stone

London meeting with Mr Foster, Mr Kit Miller, his associate, and two others, Miss Deakin was offered £1,000 a week to promote a product, which Foster had available. The four arranged a TV appearance on *Daytime Live*, in which Deakin spoke to a script she later claimed was prepared by Miller.

"She was telling the audience that her weight loss was entirely due to her taking the Deakin Diet. That was a lie, plain and simple," Mr Flewitt said.

Miss Deakin had told viewers that the powder, supposedly a new invention, had been developed by a factory near her home.

In advertising literature, she had also claimed that the manufacturers had asked her to be the guinea pig, "even though I looked more like an elephant".

Miss Deakin has since gained back much weight. The powder was in fact guar gum, previously launched by Foster as MRA30.

The court was told that more than £24,000 was found to have been taken in orders for the Deakin Diet. "But there were probably a lot more orders," Mr Flewitt said.

Mr Flewitt, prosecuting on behalf of Knowsley Borough Council's Trading Standards Department, added: "Somebody has made a lot of money out of this scheme."

The trial continues today.

Jackson backs jail review call

THE Rev Jesse Jackson, the US Democratic politician and civil rights campaigner, yesterday pledged his support to the campaign for a review of the case of the so-called Tottenham Three, the men jailed for life for the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock, at Broadwater Farm in 1985.

Mr Jackson spent almost an hour with relatives, friends and members of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, including Mr Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham.

He said he was concerned about the confessions of Engin Raghup, aged 24, Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, and Winston Silcott, aged 28, and their lack of legal representation in custody.

Mr Jackson was in Britain for the Nelson Mandela concert.

Holy landing

From next month transatlantic flights will be permitted to land at Knock, Ireland's "Holy Airport" built on a hillside bog in County Mayo. Previously all flights, including charters, had first to land at Shannon.

Glasnost gift

Mrs Kathleen Tacchi-Morris, aged 93, a peace campaigner and a former ballerina, is providing in her will that her £300,000 mansion at North Curry, Somerset, should become an international exchange centre to be used by students from the Soviet Union. She said: "I just want to spread peace after I peg it."

Inquests reopen

Inquests into the deaths of the 95 people who died in the Hillsborough disaster will resume in Sheffield today, a year after Britain's worst sporting disaster. It is expected that the hearing will take up to three weeks.

Papers for blind

The Royal National Institute for the Blind is testing a digital newspaper system by which text is transmitted over the independent television network to a blind person's home where it can be "read" by a special computer program.

Cash no obstacle to Queen's visit

By Alan Hamilton

THE question being asked in Windsor yesterday was, who is the Keeper of the Queen's Bolls?

Although Her Majesty's family have tended to favour other, newer, schools, she none the less intends to grace the 50th anniversary celebrations of Eton College with her presence on May 29. Unfortunately her direct route from Windsor Castle to the school gates, barely half a mile away, is blocked by 14 concrete posts, nine plant pots and two benches. What was briefly at issue yesterday was who was

to pay for the temporary removal of those obstacles to allow the Queen's carriage procession to cross Windsor Bridge, closed to traffic some 20 years ago.

It was not, a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said, anything to do with them.

Further inquiries at the chief executive's office of Windsor and Maidenhead Council elicited the admission that they indeed would pay for the moving of the bollards, and that the total cost to the poll-tax payers would be between £100 and £150.

Slimmer of Year 'falsely endorsed product for £1,000'

A WOMAN named "Young Slimmer of the Year" had never used the "miracle" product that she publicly claimed had helped her lose 12 stone in one year, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Customers who sent money to Miss Michele Deakin's home and ordered the guar gum-based "Deakin Diet" never received the promised wonder granules, it was alleged.

Mr Peter Foster, who faces trial over the diet drink Bai Lin Tea, persuaded Miss Deakin to claim that she had lost 12 stones by taking a special powder, and allegedly offered to pay her £1,000 a week for doing so.

However, Miss Deakin fell foul of *Slimmer Magazine* after endorsing the Deakin Diet on national television.

Mr Neil Flewitt, for the prosecution, said the magazine stripped her of the "1988 Young Slimmer of the Year" title, saying the award was only given to people who lost weight naturally.

Subsequently, hundreds of people who had sent off for the Deakin Diet began to complain after receiving nothing in return for their cheques.

Miss Deakin, aged 21, of Darrell Drive, Wavertree, Merseyside, denies conspiring with Mr Foster and others to sell a dieting and weight loss aid, advertised with a false trade description.



Miss Deakin: Won award after losing 12 stone

Fame clings only to Neighbours

By Robin Young

YOU DO not have to be nine or ten to know who Des Clarke is, but it helps. At any rate, nine tenths of the 700 children asked that question in a survey by *Plus Magazine* got the answer right.

On the other hand, only 16 per cent of them could explain the term "Iron Curtain". One of them thought it was Mrs Thatcher. Fewer than a third knew of Winston Churchill. Several identified him as a character in *Ghostbusters* (who is actually Winston Zeddemore).

More than two-thirds knew of Mr Nelson Mandela, (the most popular prisoner for 25 years), one wrote, but fewer than half had Mr Mikhail Gorbachev right. Some thought of him as "the Prime Minister's friend", and

two thought he was her brother. A few were under the impression he was the President of the United States, but then there were others who thought the same of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Two fifths of the children knew of Mr Salman Rushdie, although some thought he had written *The Titanic Verses*, one thought he was what you got if you did not cook meat properly, and another begged his bet: "He is a fish or a prime minister."

Tiananmen Square was correctly identified by a quarter of the children, but was also confused with Trafalgar Square and sited variously in Russia, Romania, South Africa, the United States, India, Japan and Germany.

More than nine-tenths could explain

the term "fast forward", more than half knew what a mortgage was, and 46 per cent had the gist of the term poll tax. "We mortgage our house if we can't pay our poll tax," one precocious child said.

Just over a fifth knew what an E-number was, but only 17 per cent could cope with the EEC, which was confused with the NEC (National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham), the CFC gases, a PC, and the RAC. One child thought it stood for Easy Education for Children, which would have to come from television supposedly, because no fewer than 98 per cent of the respondents were in no doubt about Kylie Minogue.

And Des Clarke? Well, ask a child of nine and they will tell you he is a star in the soap opera *Neighbours*.

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The Conservatives conned us in 1979 by claiming that all we had to do was stand on our own two feet, pull our socks up and everything would be all right.

They conned us by promising a boom, an economic miracle with 'zero' inflation. In fact, it's been an economic mirage. Our inflation's now the highest in Europe, while our trade deficit is the worst in our history.

They conned us by suggesting that government has no role to play in industry. 'Sink or swim' was their motto. And many of our industries sank without trace. (Now even Jaguar's owned by the Americans.) In fact, our share of world manufactured trade has fallen by 25% in the last ten years.

They conned us by introducing so-called Youth Training Schemes. But they don't seem to have trained or taught anyone anything. All they did was make the unemployment figures look a bit better and give businesses the opportunity to use cheap, unskilled labour. On average, a German company spends fourteen times more on training than its British counterpart. What's more, expenditure on training is to be cut again: by £100m in 1990 and by £200m in 1991.

They conned us by promising to put more money in our pockets. Instead, runaway interest rates have emptied our pockets. In fact, interest rates have increased eleven times in the last eighteen months to become higher than those of any of our European competitors.

They conned us by promising to cut taxation. In reality, we pay more tax now than we did in 1979.

They conned us by promising to protect the homeowner. People got their dream homes. Things began to look rosy. But record mortgage rates soon turned their dream into a nightmare. Thousands of families are now living at subsistence level with evictions running at an all-time high.

Amazingly, they even conned their own staunchest supporters. The combination of soaring interest rates and huge rate increases in the shape of the new Uniform Business Rate ('Poll Tax for Businesses') means that businesses are going to the wall faster than at any time since the Depression.

They conned us by pretending to be the upholders of family values. But they have actually cut child benefit and pensions in real terms, pushing the families that depend on them most even deeper into poverty and debt.

They conned us with their promises to make the rates system fairer. But nothing could be more unfair than the hated Poll Tax which, again, penalises those with more mouths to feed. To add insult to injury, the Conservatives claimed that the average contribution would be £278. In reality, it's £363.

They conned us by promising our children a better education, perhaps the cruellest con of all. Their savage cost-cutting measures mean that nearly 4,000 teaching vacancies remain unfilled.

They conned us by saying the health service would be safe in their hands but 468 hospitals have closed since 1979 and almost a million people are waiting for treatment.

They conned us again by claiming to be the party of law and order. In fact, our streets are now more dangerous than ever.

But we can do something to stop the rot.

We can invest money in our own industries instead of selling them off to the highest bidder.

We can invest in training our youngsters properly.

We can start to attract more and better teachers by paying them a decent salary.

We can follow the example of Germany, France and Japan where government works in partnership with business and not against it.

We can help to put an end to the 'us and them' attitude that's held our country back.

We can build a prosperous future for all of our people.

But we can only do it with your support and your vote.



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Private firms may take over running of remand hostels

By Quentin Cowdy, Home Affairs Correspondent

BAIL hostels and accommodation for recently released prisoners may be privatized while probation officers concentrate on other work, under Home Office proposals.

An expanded probation service would prepare reports for courts, monitor compliance of court orders and tackle offending behaviour. Some other duties would be contracted out to voluntary bodies or the private sector, using competitive tendering.

The Home Office says the new approach could save money and improve standards of service. However, many probation officers and some voluntary organizations regard the idea with suspicion.

Ministers think the independent sector could broaden its activities in crime prevention, prisoner welfare and providing specialist services under non-custodial sentences as well as breaking into new areas such as bail hostel management.

A number of companies have voiced interest in running bail hostels, most of which are managed by probation officers.

The Home Office also wants

to see greater co-operation between the criminal justice agencies. Committees with representatives from the police, courts, probation service and voluntary bodies could analyse local crime patterns and suggest solutions.

Mr John Paton, Minister of State at the Home Office, said he hoped probation officers would concentrate on their three main tasks, which would assume greater importance under plans to increase community punishments.

"We want to encourage further developments, not just to allow skilled probation resources to be released for more intensive work, but to put to maximum use the skills and valuable experience of voluntary and private sector bodies," he said. Getting probation officers to ensure that someone in a bail hostel ate three meals a day and made his bed each morning was a waste of expertise.

Instead, they should have overall responsibility for the supervision of probation or community service programmes, monitoring standards, retaining the power to

report breaches of orders, and conducting therapy designed to prevent re-offending. Voluntary organizations could provide job training, health education or community reparation projects.

The National Association for Probation Officers said: "This will have a detrimental effect on the work the probation service does for offenders and courts and will lead to fragmentation."

Miss Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said voluntary organizations had to complement, not replace the probation service.

"Such concepts as competitive tendering, time-limited contracts and uncertain, short-term funding would play havoc with the quality of services."

The idea, however, received support from the Association of Chief Officers of Probation which agreed that a "broad approach" was needed. "It is good to hear confirmation from Government that different approaches should be tried in different locations, tailored to local needs."

Hendrix guitar up for auction



Mitch Mitchell, one-time drummer with the Jimi Hendrix Experience, plays the white Fender Stratocaster that the legendary guitarist performed with at the Woodstock and Isle of Wight pop festivals. The instrument is expected to make £50,000 to £70,000 in an auction of rock memorabilia at Sotheby's next

Wednesday (John Shaw writes). Mitchell was given the guitar by Hendrix in exchange for a drum kit.

Part of its value stems from its survival; Hendrix, a volatile performer who died prematurely in 1970, was well known for smashing instruments on stage. Mr Steve Maycock, in charge of

the auction, said: "Jimi Hendrix was the best exponent of the electric guitar around. He was streets ahead of everyone else. This was his favourite instrument." The sale includes a cream jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley on stage in Las Vegas, estimated at £25,000 to £30,000, and two Marilyn Monroe dresses.

Inspector ignored race gibes PC says

A BLACK police constable who accuses his former chiefs of racism believed he was being "hounded" out of the force, a London industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

PC William Halliday, aged 30, claims he was offered a transfer if he dropped the case. He told the Ebury Bridge tribunal that Inspector Ian Thirkell, a former royal bodyguard, and other white officers at Orpington Police station, Kent called him "nigger" and "coon" and referred to him as "Bill the Spook". The Metropolitan Police claim the exchanges were "joke banter".

When he complained about the allegedly racist remarks to Mr Thirkell, his superior, and other chiefs, nothing was done. PC Hugh Muir, the Police Federation shop steward for the area, said: "The main objection was that the supervisors were aware of it and would not discourage it."

"Constable Halliday said it was banter but sometimes it personally did hurt him."

Insp Thirkell and the Metropolitan Police deny racial discrimination. PC Halliday denies claims that he was "paranoid, lazy and sexist". The black policeman is alleged to have asked a WPC: "Fancy a bit of black?" The hearing continues today.

More against NHS reforms

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

PUBLIC opposition to the Government's health service reforms has reached new heights, according to an opinion poll published yesterday by the British Medical Association.

The Gallup poll shows that 77 per cent of people who are aware of the proposed reforms disapprove of them. That is 6 per cent more than a similar poll in January, and the highest proportion recorded in five surveys carried out since last summer.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA Council, said yesterday: "The new poll shows beyond any doubt that the Government has failed utterly to convince the public

about its reforms. Ministers and their supporters have tried for a year to get their theories accepted, with conspicuous lack of success."

Gallup interviewed 853 people, of whom 567 were aware of the reforms. The poll shows that of this number, only 11 per cent approve of them, and only 8 per cent favour their immediate implementation.

Seventy-five per cent favour the changes being introduced experimentally in pilot areas, a strategy advocated by the BMA and the medical royal colleges.

The association is publishing the poll to coincide with the NHS Bill beginning its committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow. Next Tuesday the Lords will debate an amendment allowing pilot schemes to take place.

Dr Marks said: "We fully support this proposal, which would save the NHS from widespread and unnecessary damage to patient care from the precipitate introduction of untried, untested and unevaluated proposals."

"The Government has an opportunity even at this late stage, to accept the idea of regional experiments."

The poll shows that 70 per cent are against the proposal that general practitioners should have a budget from which to pay the running costs of their practice and the costs of medicines and hospital treatment for their patients.

The proposal that local hospitals should become self-governing rather than controlled by health authorities is supported by 21 per cent of those polled, and opposed by 67 per cent.

Asked whether the NHS would be in better or worse shape 10 years after the reforms, 15 per cent said it would be better, and 69 per cent said it would be worse.

Lord Cardigan is leading a campaign against health chiefs who want to close the operating theatre and a ward at his local NHS hospital, the Savernake Hospital near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The closures are threatened to help Swindon health authority trim a million pounds off its spending for the next 12 months.

Contracts in NHS attacked

By Kerry Gill

PRIVATIZATION in the National Health Service must be overturned by a Labour government as a matter of urgency, the Scottish Trades Union Congress resolved yesterday.

Delegates at the STUC annual conference in Glasgow voted overwhelmingly for a resolution calling for all contracts awarded under private tendering to be scrapped once Labour had won office.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said that the Government was attempting to introduce a two-tier system of health care. It had "deliberately run down the service to the point where even some of the service's best supporters have felt they might now need to take out private health insurance because of waiting lists".

He said: "We are heading towards a US-style health service in which, if you have got the money, you will be all right, if you haven't, you will have to suffer."

The conference called for the Health and Safety Executive to start a stress counselling service in industry.

Painkiller is linked with kidney failure

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

EVIDENCE that a leading painkiller could cause kidney failure is to be studied by Department of Health experts.

The drug ibuprofen, sold over the counter as Nurofen, has been linked with the potentially fatal condition by researchers in the United States.

Nurofen is one of Britain's biggest-selling, non-prescription pain relievers. About 15 million tablets are sold each year by Boots, which makes them at its Nottingham laboratories.

Results of a three-year study into the side-effects of ibuprofen were published this week in the American journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

They studied the short-term effects of the drug on 12 women, with mild kidney disease, who also had arthritis and high blood pressure, conditions which often prompt its

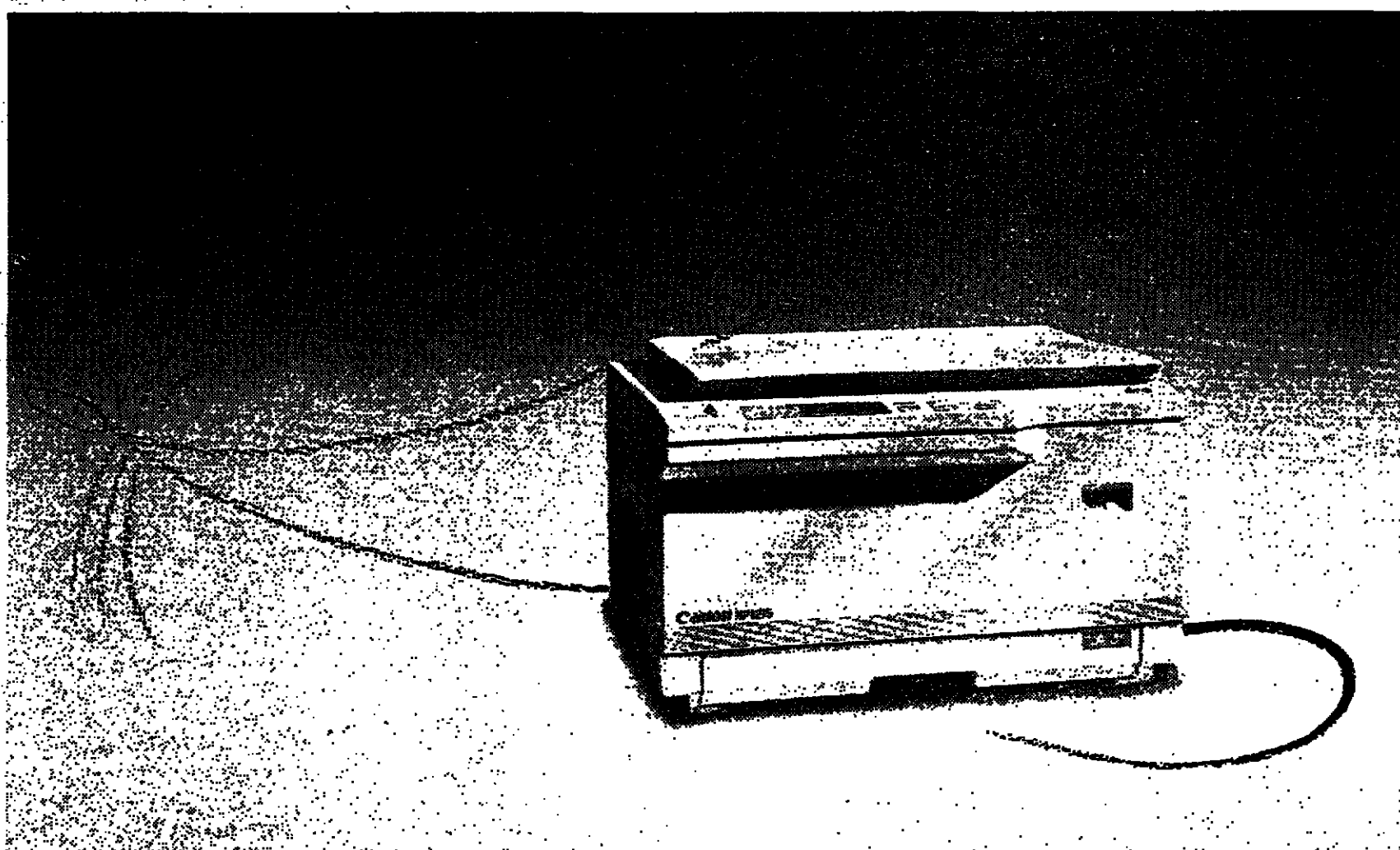
use. Volunteers were given 800 milligrams of ibuprofen three times a day, equivalent to 12 tablets, for up to 11 days.

After eight days, three women developed kidney failure, which reversed when ibuprofen was discontinued. The remaining nine, who received ibuprofen for 11 days, showed changes in kidney function but did not develop kidney failure.

The findings will be examined by the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines, and by Boots. Packets of Nurofen carry warnings that anyone receiving medical treatment should seek advice from their doctor about their use.

Boots said: "Ibuprofen is widely regarded as one of the safest of all pain relievers. We note that the American study involves only 12 patients with underlying conditions, and see no cause for concern."

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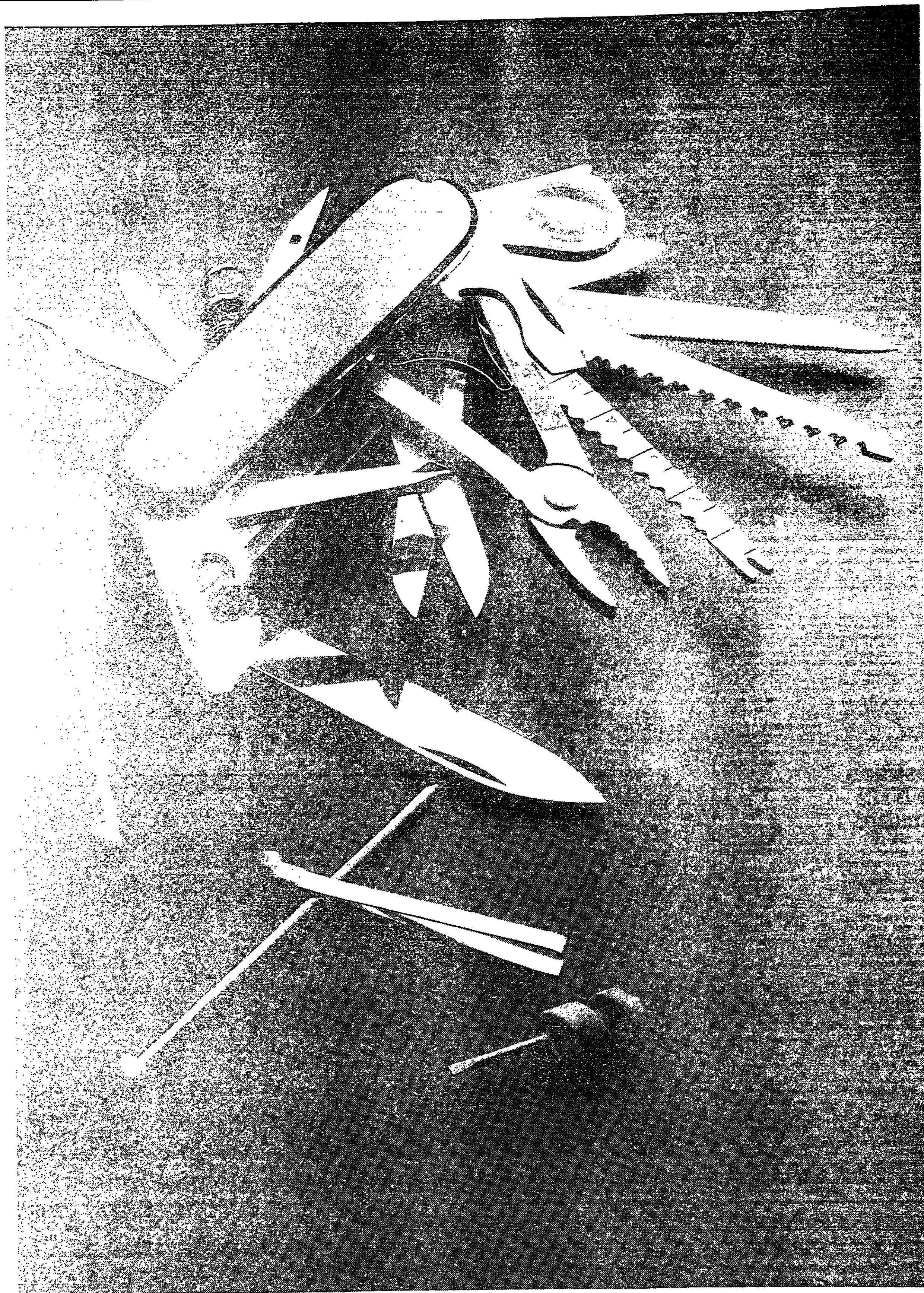
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Jubilant left claims teachers' leader has picked wrong target



Mr McAvoy: Wants to speak to teachers at home

By David Tyler
Education Editor

CRIS of "resign" greeted Mr. Doug McAvoy's entry into the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday as the ultra left-sectored success in its demands for national strikes.

The union's general secretary had infuriated the left wing yesterday by claiming that the Militant Tendency had shaped the conference's agenda to suit its own ends. The left's main complaint seemed to be that he had picked the wrong target.

The success of building on the widespread anger of teachers goes

to a coalition of the ultra left, mostly outside Militant.

Mr Ian Murch, a member of the executive from Bradford, who proposed the motion that set the Bournemouth conference on the path to calling for illegal secondary strike action, is a co-founder of the Campaign for a Democratic Union but is not a supporter of Militant.

Nor is he a member of the well-organized Socialist Teachers' Alliance, co-founded by Mr Bernard Regan, a London teacher and one of the 10 or 12 hard-left members who make up about a quarter of the NUT's national executive.

The alliance, with 700 members, has its roots in the International

Marxist Group. The Campaign for a Democratic Union, the other hard-left group, stemmed from a rank-and-file organization which was disbanded in 1976 and had close links with the Socialist Workers' Party.

The organizations link together at the conference to cause the maximum discomfort to the largely moderate, and now clearly shaken, national executive which has failed to swing delegates behind it.

The tactics of the ultra left have much in common with Trotskyist groups in making impossible demands, such as a flat-rate pay rise of £3,000 a year and calls for strikes

on every issue. Miss Anita Dickinson, the London teacher whose article in the *Militant* newspaper claimed that its supporters had been influential in shaping the conference agenda, yesterday made no apologies for being a supporter of Militant.

She said: "Doug McAvoy tried to use scare tactics to intimidate delegates to vote against the motion. His scare tactics claiming that conference was being manipulated did not work."

Mr McAvoy himself was unrepentant, claiming the heckling was clearly being organized by political groups.

He was elected general secretary

of the 190,000-strong union last year with a considerable majority after 15 years as deputy general secretary. Before that he taught in Newcastle upon Tyne. Now aged 51, his political views have softened and he believes persuasion is one of the union's most useful weapons.

It would be wrong to say that the strike weapon has been abandoned entirely but Mr McAvoy believes that the membership in the country is not prepared to strike.

He said: "I would not support any attempt to take the union into illegal action. The members will not do it, therefore a decision of conference asking them to do

something they will not do is unworkable." Mr McAvoy says his main aim is to give the union back to the members who stay away from local meetings in droves.

Most of the meetings which elect delegates and propose motions are inquorate and all very badly attended, allowing the ultra left to get into a position where they have captured the conference.

Mr McAvoy is clearly anxious to speak over the heads of conference to the members at home. He said: "Political factions have always sought to find any vehicle to ride on. The NUT is a pretty sizeable vehicle and I don't want them to grab the steering wheel."

Classes at risk from strikes by staff over pay and jobs

By Douglas Broom and David Tyler

SCHOOLS in England and Wales were last night facing months of disruption after strike calls at the conference of the National Union of Teachers.

As delegates representing 170,000 members of the National Union of Teachers voted to call for national strikes to defend the jobs of staff threatened with redundancy, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference was told that pay strikes were likely to resume in the autumn.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary designate, told the NAS/UTW conference in Scarborough: "Every pay increase we have secured since 1969 has been preceded by

action of some kind. I believe that anyone who calls himself a trade unionist should be prepared to stand up and fight by taking action.

"There has been a deliberate campaign by the right-wing press to portray this as unfashionable and something that should be relegated to the last century. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"The ambulance workers have shown that we have got to be prepared to stand and fight for our case. The teachers are in the same situation now. It can only be a question of time before anger spreads more widely than NAS/UTW membership."

Mr de Gruchy expected the government announcement

in September of the cash limit on next year's teachers' pay award to be the trigger for strikes, and the conference will today vote on a motion giving the executive power to hold a strike ballot at any time.

However, Mr de Gruchy made clear that he would resist calls for a boycott of GCSE and A-Level examination work in the run-up to strikes. "That is like using a nuclear weapon and we are not convinced that it would work," he told delegates representing the union's 118,000 members.

Meanwhile, the NUT deferred all discussion on pay to a special conference in October, effectively ruling out a national pay strike this year.

Union officials will embark on a massive consultation, exercise during the summer term to discover what action their members would be prepared to take in support of a renewed pay campaign.

Mr Bill Greenfield, of Ilkstone, Derbyshire, told the Bournemouth conference: "We need to get away from the old style debates and start a period of building rather than posturing," a view echoed by Mr David Furness, of Matlock, who said: "Immediate strike action is not the answer to all our problems of the past 10 miserable years."

While the two unions' leaders differed in their approach to the pay campaign, they were at one on the question of striking over redundancies.

Mr Fred Smithies, the outgoing NAS/UTW general secretary, said he supported the view of Mr Doug McAvoy, his NUT counterpart, that it would be illegal to stage national strikes over redundancies declared by individual school governing bodies.

However, Mr Smithies said his union was ready to stage local "retaliatory" strikes if teachers were made redundant because of poll-tax capping or by governors attempting to balance the books under new school funding formulas.

Teacher numbers, page 12
Letters, page 13
Boy wonder, page 18

Fierce struggle for union members

By Douglas Broom

BEHIND the future over allegations that the conference of Britain's biggest teachers' union has been hijacked by the Militant Tendency lies a fierce struggle for membership between six teaching unions.

Mr Doug McAvoy's defeat at the hands of the militants in Bournemouth is not only a setback for moderation and the "new realism" that he came to personify, but poses a real danger to the union's position as the biggest teachers' organisation.

The Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association and the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), which bans its members from taking any kind of strike action, stand to reap the benefits.

At stake is the share each union will take of the 12,500 new teachers who will graduate from the teacher training institutions in September.

The majority of NUT members work in primary schools, where its losses to the AMMA and PAT, were far worse in the period up to 1987 than in any other sector of education.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, gen-

eral secretary of the second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, yesterday urged his members to be ready to strike in the autumn.

He privately admits, however, that striking costs members. "We lose members every time we go on strike," he said.

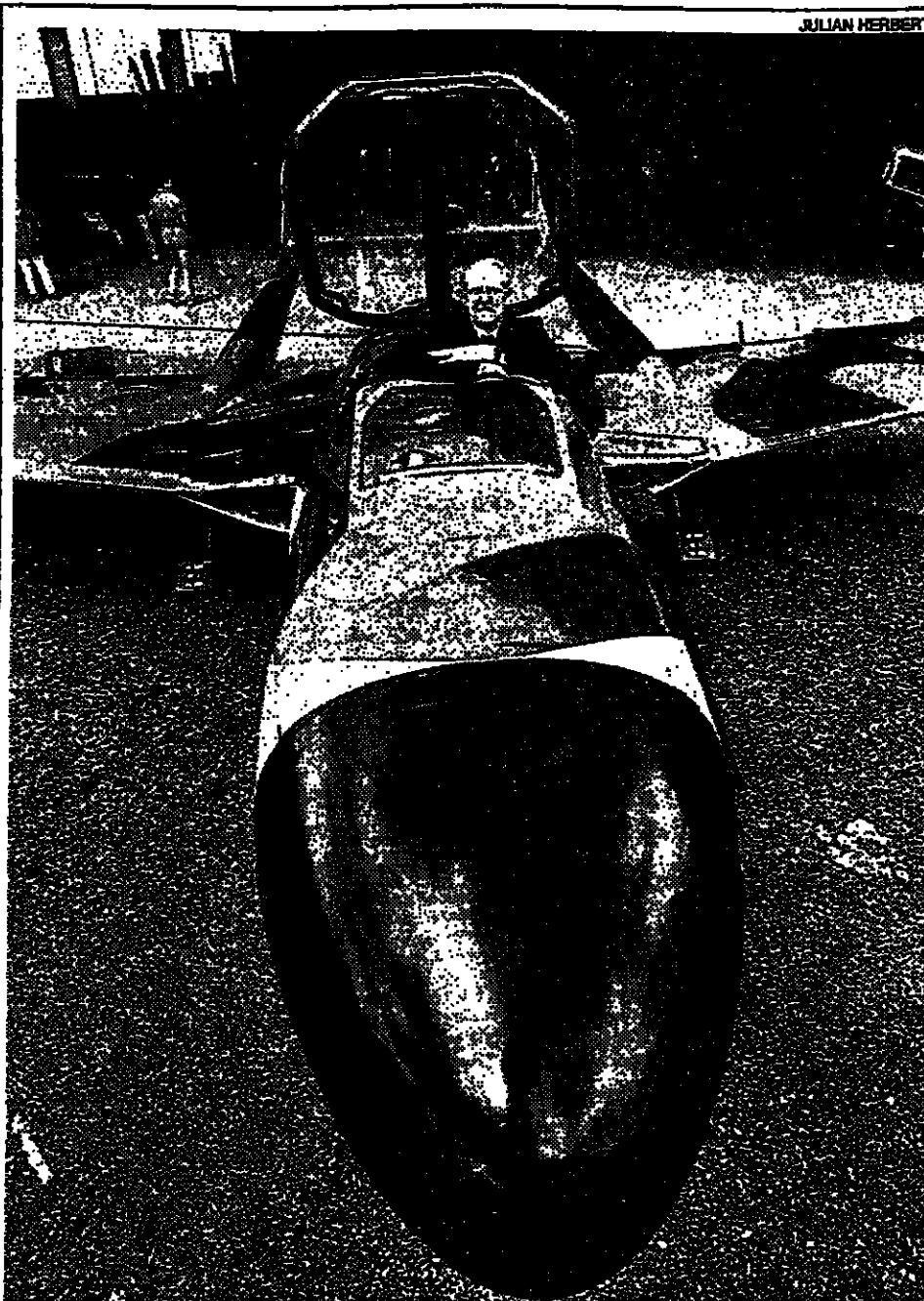
"It is an insult to our members to suggest that we would ask them to give up a day's pay just because we are on a recruitment drive."

It is far from certain that all of the 170,000 claimed by the NUT are actually teaching in state schools. Many are retired or under training.

NAS/UTW and the AMMA have been locked in a battle for second place for years.

The NAS/UTW claims 118,000, the AMMA says it has 120,000, but almost a sixth of those are in the private sector.

PAT says it has more than 40,000 members, taking the total to 448,000 even before the two head teacher organizations have laid claim to their share of the market.



Mr Bob Myatt in the cockpit of a De Havilland Venom he flew with the RAF 33 years ago. The restored aircraft went on display at the Mosquito Museum at London Colney, Hertfordshire, on Sunday

College funding blocked

By Ruth Gledhill

FUNDING for one of London's most renowned colleges has been suspended because of a report which found serious financial and managerial problems.

An unpublished report to the council of Morley College calls for a new management structure and other radical reforms to save the college.

Funding for the college, which has been allocated £1.3 million by the London Residuary Body for this financial year, has been put on hold from the end of this academic year in August. A source close

to the college said: "The LRB will need some reassurances that the structure has been properly rearranged before they hand over more money."

A three-man inquiry team, led by Lord Henderson of Brompton, found "a number of problems" at Morley, the source said.

The 100-year-old adult education college in Waterloo was the subject of a lengthy campaign to prevent its closure with the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the LRB, said the

college was "a very necessary part of adult education in inner London". A joint executive committee had been set up to produce a financial and administrative framework to ensure its future.

Referring to a report that left-wing teachers had refused to register students he added: "I was not aware of this action. But if this is so it makes the problems at Morley College rather more difficult than I had anticipated."

Mrs Janet Roberts, the principal, was not available for comment.

Lino is back to end 30 lost years

By Kerry Gill

THE nostalgia boom that has seen the return of men's braces, battered leather suitcases and the flashy Ford Zephyr is to be joined by yet another product of the years of austerity: linoleum.

For the past 30 years or so, the cheap floor covering made from natural materials including hessian, jute, linseed oil, pine tree resin and wood flour, has been as outmoded as petrol coupons, de-mob suits and Teddy boys.

Once found in almost every home, lino disappeared to be replaced by stripped pine and fitted carpets. However, the UK's last remaining manufacturer yesterday announced its first new range of domestic lino in 20 years.

Forbo-Nairn, of Kirkcaldy in Fife, which began producing lino in 1877, launched its new range in 10 pastel colours after an upsurge in demand for the flooring used by a generation of baby boomers to express their distaste for cod liver oil.

Mr Alan Lawson, deputy managing director of Forbo-Nairn, said the move came after a £2.5 million investment to modernize and improve production processes.

"Things do move in cycles and this combination of green and hygiene is one that can give us a marketing edge. If we had invented the product today, it would be hailed as one of the most fantastic developments of all time."

The company employs 500 people with 120 directly involved in lino production, and accounts for some 90 per cent of Britain's £12 million contract lino market, mostly hospitals.

One of lino's advantages is that it continues to mature and toughen after being laid — as anyone who stripped the stuff to make way for the G-plan look in the early 1960s will bear witness. It is also resistant to common chemicals and domestic spillages. Forbo-Nairn offers a 20-year guarantee.

Kirkcaldy, which used to be the world centre for lino production, may even get its unique smell back — described by Mr Lawson as linseed oil on a cricket bat. Remember?

Hopes of £10m bonus for BBC

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

THE BBC expects to receive an unexpected bonus worth at least £10 million a year due to an apparent change of heart by the Government over the licence fee.

For the past three years the licence fee has increased in line with the retail prices index, but ministers indicated in the broadcasting White Paper that from April 1991 increases would be less than the RPI, to take account of income earned from new subscription services.

"If subscription goes well it may be possible to freeze or even reduce the licence fee," the blueprint added.

However, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, disclosed in an interview with *The Times* that the Home Office had not told the BBC of such "RPI minus" plans and he expected increases in the licence fee to continue to be inflation-linked. "My own view is that the RPI licence fee will remain until the whole thing comes up under the charter [in 1996]," he said. "The licence fee is fantastic value for money."

The effect of such a change can be gauged from the most recent increase in the licence fee from £66.22 to £71.24, which was based on the RPI of 7.6 per cent last September. With about 20 million licence fee payers, the increase in income will be £100 million.

Assuming a similar inflation rate for next year's licence fee increase, the additional income from a fully indexed rise would be about £108 million. Even a 1 per cent cut on an RPI-based increase would have cost the BBC £10 million a year.

Negotiations between the Home Office and the BBC over future licence fee increases should begin shortly.

The BBC is planning subscription services which will be "downloaded" during night hours to specialist users such as lawyers, financiers and farmers and yachtmen.

The Home Office said last night: "We have not had any discussions on the licence changes."

My BBC battles, page 21

Footpath fight faces cash hitch

By Peter Davenport

A PROJECT to repair footpaths in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, scarred by the worst erosion of its kind in the country, is in danger of being prematurely halted because of lack of funds.

A £100,000 shortfall in the £800,000 budget for the five-year scheme, begun in 1987, threatens to end the programme a year early when the project team is on the verge of its most important work.

Mr Simon Rose, the project leader, said yesterday that unless the money was found by next March, staff would have to be laid off.

"The programme in the Three Peaks was always seen as a test-bed for a lot of similar upland problem areas elsewhere," he said.

"Our belief was that the lessons learned here, dealing with footpath erosion on a scale never before seen in this country, could be transferred to other situations."

"The work has a national significance and it would be crazy to allow it to end when it would be four years into a five-year programme."

The problems on Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale, each rising to more than 2,000ft and dominating the heart of the Dales National Park, have been caused by the sheer amount of human traffic.

Each year about a quarter of a million walkers tramp along well-worn footpaths which have been gradually widened until they have become swampy rural "motorways", defacing the landscape and presenting serious conservation and restoration problems.

In 1987 the National Park set up its five-year programme to investigate a variety of possible techniques for repair-

ing the paths involving a range of solutions from the encouragement of natural vegetation to the use of artificial surfaces.

Originally £250,000 of funding was to have come through the Community Programme but the National Park withdrew from the scheme after only a year, because of a change in the rules covering the eligibility of those able to take part, having received only £50,000.

Extra finance from the National Park Committee, which was already committed to some £330,000, and a grant from the Sports Council reduced the expected shortfall to £100,000. The National Park

has submitted an application to the Department of the Environment for extra funds to complete the programme but hopes that it will be successful are not high.

It is already feeling financially hard-pressed, expressing "disappointment" at its government grant for this year and concern that suggested spending restrictions over the next three years will mean annual reductions, in real terms, of 5 per cent.

Appeals have also been made to the Countryside Commission, which has already given £200,000, and to the Nature Conservancy Council, which has provided £75,000. The aim of the

plans for a new head office for the Eagle Star Insurance group, at Bishops Cleeve, near Cheltenham, will have to be altered to accommodate a Victorian mansion which the Government has refused to allow to be demolished.

The company had applied to the Department of the Environment for the neo-Gothic house, the Grange, to be removed from the list of protected buildings, but Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has declared that its historic and architectural interest justifies its retention.

The house, built in 1865 and surrounded by parkland, has retained its original character with leaded and mullioned windows, pointed arches, iron-studded door-

ways and carved foliage capitals. Interior features include individually designed marble fireplaces and brass doorknobs.

Mr Patten's decision was not unexpected, since the house was spot-listed last year at the request of local residents. To have de-listed it only a few months later would have been an admission that the listing was a mistake.

The company said it would now have to consider how the house could be best fitted in with the new building and what use to make of it. There was a precedent in that its offices in the middle of Cheltenham had been designed successfully to incorporate two Georgian houses.

Visitors to the National Garden Festival will be able to

view the 200-acre site without leaving one small room on the grounds.

For the world's biggest camera obscura has been built close to the heart of the development, which takes in two miles of reclaimed riverside at Gatershead, Tyne and Wear.

The device, a mechanism of lenses and mirrors, will allow up to 200 visitors at a time to view images of the festival on a curved viewing plate in a light-proof room.

Camera obscuras are based on a principle discovered by the ancient Greeks. Gatershead's obscura uses a rotating mirrored plate to project light downwards through a 15ft vertical set of mirrors and lenses, on to the viewing surface.

project was not to repair all the existing damage to the 68km of footpaths in the Three Peaks but to conduct a series of experiments to discover the most efficient, aesthetic and cost-effective methods of doing so.

The project has achieved two notable successes: revegetation trials on the bare summit of Wharfedale have shown that encouraging the return of plants will be much easier; and several kilometres of stone clipping paths laid in the area since 1987 are showing signs of re-greening as vegetation returns, stimulated by treatment with fertilizers, seed and soil.

Racecourse arson by rights group

ANIMAL rights campaigners have claimed responsibility for a fire that badly damaged a stand at Aintree racecourse.

Firemen took nearly two hours to control the blaze at the Old Lord Derby Stand, which workmen had begun demolishing after the Grand National meeting.

Yesterday the Animal Liberation Front said in a statement it started the fire over the Bank holiday weekend "as an act of retribution for the horses killed during the Grand National".

Seven horses died in the three-day Aintree meeting.

Joyriders killed

Leicestershire police said yesterday that they were not chasing a high-powered car stolen by two teenagers who were killed when it crashed head-on into a car driven by an elderly couple near Frisby on Monday afternoon. The elderly couple were also killed in the crash.

Drugs charge

Thomas Barton, aged 65, of Edge Hill, Liverpool, was remanded in custody by Dover magistrates yesterday charged with illegally importing cannabis resin with a street value of about £140,000 on Easter Monday. Mr Barton was arrested at Dover Hoverport.

Boys suspended

At least seven boys have been suspended from Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, the Roman Catholic public school, pending the result of a police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring.

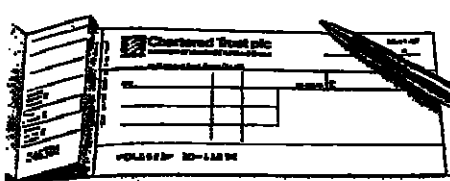
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Muslim voters hold key as two parties battle

By Jamie Dettmer

MR MOHAMMED Riaz resigned five months ago from the Bradford Labour Party and crossed over the council chamber to become the first Asian in the city's history to sit on the Conservative benches.

His defection may prove at the local elections on May 3 to be an astute move and a harbinger of a significant change in Muslim politics in Bradford.

In the wake of the controversy over Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, Muslims have started, on a larger scale than ever before, to break out of a political straitjacket which had left them more observers than participants in the mainstream of British politics.

Traditionally, the Asian Muslim vote has gone to the Labour Party, a response to the perceived racism of Conservative politicians. With the rise of an Asian middle class and the emergence into adulthood of a new generation of more confident British Asians, that could change.

The Rushdie affair has hastened the coming of age of British Muslims. It has led them to become aware of British political realities.

Mr Riaz is not the only signal of a rusting in the

undergrowth in Bradford, which first received substantial numbers of Asian immigrants in the 1950s. The 30,000 or so Asian voters in the West Yorkshire city will this year see Muslim candidates battling it out against each other in two wards, University and Toller, in a fight that could well determine whether Labour recaptures a city narrowly controlled by the Tories since 1988.

Labour needs four net gains in the election to take back the city from the bluff Yorkshire Thatcherite, Mr Eric Pickles, who in two years has forced through a huge privatization programme.

Thirty-two seats are up for election this year — two are by

elections. Despite the huge national swing to Labour, it will be a close-run thing in Bradford. Labour is defending the majority of the seats.

The community charge is less of an issue in Bradford than in neighbouring towns. At £276 it compares favourably with Leeds and Wakefield. That, however, will not be enough to hand Bradford back to Labour, according to Mr Riaz, who is standing in the University ward, which is 80 per cent Asian. "A lot of Asians used to vote Labour because they looked upon themselves as working class," he said. "But the 1980s has long gone. Times have changed and you find Asians in all walks of life

now — in business and in the professions."

He says that Labour made a fatal mistake during the Rushdie affair. The local Labour MPs and councillors were not sensitive to the reasons for the "burn the book" protests in the city.

"Rushdie brought everything to the surface and exposed Labour. People who had been loyal to Labour for years were upset that the party could not understand the importance of religion."

The British Asian community has been a one-party one, according to Mr Riaz. "Now it wants a two-party system."

That view is endorsed by key figure in Bradford's Muslim community, Mr Liaqat Hussain, general secretary of the powerful Council of Mosques, which was at the forefront of the anti-Rushdie protest.

Dressed in traditional garb, Mr Hussain is a virtual opposite to the suited and Western oriented Mr Riaz. But he too sees the emergence of a two-party system. However, unlike Mr Riaz, his goal is for less social integration of Asian Muslims.

"We come from a background with a different political structure and it has not been easy to understand your one," he said.



Mr Riaz: "Labour had made a fatal mistake"



Mr Pickles: Cut jobs through privatization

Defying gravity in the garage



Clinging like a bat to the underside of a garage roof near his home in Rossendale, Lancashire, Mr Mark Leach, a member of the British rock climbing team, trains for the World Cup climbing competitions starting next month in Vienna. Mr

Leach, aged 26, has made a specialty of defying gravity on overhangs that could not be more overhanging (Ronald Faux writes). His technique is to brace hands against feet on the holds, and to wedge fingers and toes in cracks above him. The

world champion in this exotic field, Mr Simon Nadin, aged 24, of Buxton, Derbyshire, will defend his title against continental climbers who have the Alps to practice upon. The strong British contingent expects to do well.

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DEPOSIT	4145.08	4700.08	3316.00	3760.00	2487.00	2820.00
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PEUGEOT. THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Scottish Labour Party delays roof tax figures

By Kerry Gill

THE LABOUR Party in Scotland may not publish detailed figures relating to its proposed property tax, an alternative to the community charge, before the forthcoming local government elections on May 3, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Donald Dewar, the opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that independent, academic researchers were working out the precise sums likely to be paid and these would only be published once the work was completed.

Labour, which announced its alternative tax earlier this year, has been criticized for not revealing costing for the so-called roof tax while at the same time claiming that it would be much fairer, based on the ability to pay, and benefit people living in mod-

est homes and on modest incomes.

Mr Dewar said he would not indulge in "back of the envelope" calculations and refused to be tied to a strict timetable when he launched the party's regional election campaign in Glasgow.

Prested about Labour's failure to produce figures, he said: "We are not going to go in for back of envelope jobs and the kind of ludicrous arithmetic that Mr Forsyth [chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party] has been producing."

"We have got independents working on it; it is difficult because there are a very large number of variables. The important thing is that the poll tax has shifted the burden of taxation against areas that are deprived, areas of low income, and there is no argument from anyone that a property-based assessment of the kind we are proposing will reverse that trend."

It has been suggested by Mr John Maxton, the party's spokesman on local government, that the roof tax could work out at about £600 for each household in Scotland. Mr Dewar agreed that this was a plausible figure and much more reasonable than the figures bandied about by the Tories.

Mr Dewar accused the Government of a betrayal of trust over the poll tax. He said: "The vast majority of Scots know the poll tax is unjust and unacceptable. Scottish Office ministers have the power to do something about this overwhelming and justified grievance. They refuse to act and that refusal is a betrayal of trust."

He said Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was determined that the Conservative Party would "proudly fight on the community charge" and that it was here to stay. "This," Mr Dewar said, "is no more than shrill bravado. He has only to look at the panic on his own benches to know the ground is shifting under his own feet."

Crofters fear loss of grants

By Kerry Gill

THE Government's plan to hand ownership of crofting estates to crofters in the Highlands and Islands is being eyed with suspicion by tenants who fear that they will lose vital grants and loans.

Crofters were surprised last month when the Government announced that it was prepared to transfer or to sell more than 100,000 acres held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Scotland (DAFS), to community ownership, with pilot schemes on the islands of Skye and Rassa.

The Scottish Crofters' Union, which has 4,600 members out of the estimated 8,000 crofters in the Highlands and Islands, gave a cautious welcome to the scheme, whose consultation period ends on June 30.

Even so, many crofters feel that the Government is simply trying to get rid of its financial commitments to the crofting estates. At present, only crofting tenants qualify for grants and loan assistance.

Some crofters doubt the viability of the proposed crofting community trusts.

Mr Donald Cameron, of North Scurrybreck, Skye, said: "DAFS's tenants who are happy to adhere to the status quo are anxious not to be thrown to the wolves."

Mr Adam Gilmour, of Achachork, Portree, Skye, said that if a trust got into financial difficulties, it could fall into private hands.



Mr Dewar: £600 per roof a "plausible" figure

Nissan money restores opera for school pupils

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

LOW-PRICE matinees for schoolchildren at the Royal Opera House, which were threatened by spending cuts, have been saved, thanks to a £750,000 sponsorship from Nissan (UK).

Earlier this year the opera house announced that the six performances a year — three of ballet, three of opera — would have to be scrapped because its budget was no longer sufficient to cover the £3 fine-rate seat price.

Although given an 11 per

cent funding increase in the Arts Council budget for 1990-91, Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, said at the time that there was still a deficit of £3 million to be cleared in the 1989-90 financial year.

The car company sponsorship, announced yesterday, will run for three years. It restores artistic events which after 13 years had become an institution, introducing 12,000 children a year to top-class performances.

Americans rush to jump on the greener-than-thou bandwagon

From Charles Bremner
New York

WHO cares the most deeply about Planet Earth? Meryl Streep, the Du Pont Chemical Company, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the "green" group of San Francisco? Judging from appearances this week the answer would be a dead heat.

You would have to reach back to the Second World War to find a time when so many strange bedfellows have united in common cause as they have this week as America gears up to celebrate Earth Day, next Sunday's "High Mass" to the environment.

On that day, hundreds of thousands of citizens from President Bush to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles will embrace the planet with rituals ranging from holistic humming through tree-planting to watching a televised "E-Day spectacular" performed by Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman and a bevy of old-hand eco-stars such as Peter, Paul and Mary. In Washington, the zoo elephants will stomp on aluminum cans. In Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, they will hold

a "Multi-media meditation to heal Planet Earth".

In Rochester, New York, Glen McClure, the folk singer, will perform on an instrument composed entirely of rubbish. On Mount Everest, Mother Earth News will broadcast messages into space from the Pope and Ann Landers, the agony columnist "to travel through the Universe forever".

The United States may have come late to the green movement, thanks to the distractions of the Reagan-era binge, but nobody could fault it now for lack of zeal. With the fervor of repentant alcoholics, corporate polluters, right-wing Republicans, investment banks, fast-food chains and others have clambered aboard a wagon already loaded with rock singers and Hollywood stars.

To the hardcore ecologists who were scorned through the 1980s like old-time Soviet dissidents, this mood of greener-than-thou smacks of too much of a good thing. Could it really be true, they wonder, that the FBI, which hounded the young organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, has set up an exhibition on

conservation in the foyer of their Washington headquarters?

Shrewd operators like the then Vice-President George Bush saw it coming. Alerted by their polling, the candidate's strategists presented him in 1988 as the future "environmental president", a role that is only now wearing a little thin. A New York Times poll found yesterday that 66 percent of the public believes "he has mainly just talked" about the subject.

It took the public relations disaster of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in March last year to alert the commercial world to the urgency of the green cause. This month, with supermarkets, banks and town halls awash with green messages, it seems few products or services are being marketed without a claim to environmental sanction. IBM, ATT, Mobil, Du Pont, have all taken the pledge and are running green advertising.

"Change the World One Diaper at a Time," says the slogan for TenderCare biodegradable nappies. McDonalds hamburgers, which produces hundreds of thousands of tonnes of paper and

plastic waste annually, leaped early into the crusade. Among other steps, it has just cut 500 tonnes of waste by shortening its drinking straws.

From New York to Los Angeles, yesterday's yuppies have taken with glee to eco-shopping. No New York furniture shop will display teak without explaining its origins. For those who care to combine a political statement with dessert, Ben and Jerry's ice-cream, a marketing phenomenon of the 1980s, has just launched a new flavour — "Rainforest Crunch".

Then there are the books, bumper stickers and other paraphernalia. Whole forests have been converted into best-sellers with titles such as *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*, (accompanied by the 365 Things... etc calendar), *The Earth Care Annual*, *The Green Lifestyle Handbook and Shopping for a Better World*.

A dose of humbug has inevitably accompanied the hype. Prosecutors around the country are trying to curb the more egregious examples. Mobil was forced to retract eco-friendly claims for

an oil. The Minnesota attorney-general rolled a grocery trolley filled with spurious "environmental products" in front of a press conference.

In Hollywood too, where the stars have all moved into eco-alignment, there has been trouble. Olivia Newton-John, appointed as the United Nations' honorary environment ambassador, is now being sued for dumping waste on her beach front.

While some old-school greens resent what they see as the hijacking of their cause, others believe that the new ecocapitalism among politicians and business is not just opportunism but also reflects a genuine sense of alarm. Mr Gaylord Nelson, who organized the original Earth Day, says: "Most businesses have bad records, and some are just after a public relations gimmick... But there are a lot of business people now who are concerned and we ought to let those sinners repent."

The mainstream conservationists, such as the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society, are working to hold the country to the good intentions of the E-Day

crescendo. Companies are being asked to sign the "Valdez Principles," a charter in which they commit themselves to ecological goals, and born-again political greens are being closely monitored for their actions. One, for example, is Mr Bob Martinez, the Republican Governor of Florida. In his 1986 campaign, he never mentioned the environment once. His re-election drive this year opened with television commercials portraying him as one of the most ecologically-aware politicians.

With even hard-nosed Republicans now talking like Greenpeace eco-warriors, the environment has turned into a motherhood issue — something no one will oppose. "Suddenly the environment has become like Sotheby's," says Mr Fred Krupp, director of the Environmental Defence Fund. "Bush has set in motion a bidding process where the two parties are proving which candidate, which party is the greener."

The true test will come when politicians face decisions on policies which involve true sacrifices among their voters.

Secessionist groups banned as Kashmir crackdown hardens

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE Indian Government has banned eight secessionist groups in Kashmir as it carries out its biggest security operation to bring the strife-torn valley under control.

The drive is also being aimed at newspapers carrying hostile anti-Indian articles. The seizure of two printing presses will stop the publication of three Urdu-language newspapers, one of them the popular daily, *Al-Bal*.

In little more than a week security forces have arrested nearly 300 people, including some described as leaders of subversive groups. The banned organizations include the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Pakistan-based group that is regarded by India as the biggest threat.

Mr Amrullah Khan, its leader, has been touring the United States to publicize his cause, much to India's anger. He operates openly from an office in Rawalpindi, a cause of tension between Delhi and Islamabad.

Until recently, leaders of pro-separatist groups have lived openly in Srinagar, the state capital, and other towns, but since the new crackdown they have gone underground. Banning the groups will give security forces a freer hand. The state government said in Srinagar that the banned organizations were indulging in terrorist and secessionist activities, creating an atmosphere of subversion and "challenging the sovereignty, integrity and unity of the

country". The newspapers being forced to close were accused by the authorities of irresponsibility.

One of them, *Al-Bal*, carried a front-page story last week-end saying that one of the secessionist groups that is now banned, Hizbul Mujahidin, has asked Kashmiri Hindus and other non-Muslim "settlers" in Kashmir to leave the valley within two days. After that they would face "dire consequences".

The story caused widespread alarm among non-Muslims and appears to have prompted a surge of migration from the valley. Two days later, two leading dailies carried denials of the story.

The state administration has decided to mount prosecutions under anti-terrorist legislation against several pub-

lications for publishing what it calls objectionable articles aimed at inciting violence and fear.

The clampdown appears to have brought some results in the valley, where bombings and shootings have declined sharply in recent days.

State authorities have tested the atmosphere in the past two days by relaxing the round-the-clock curfew for a few hours a day, allowing people to buy essential commodities. Vehicles were banned from the roads, but thousands of people swarmed from their homes to stock up.

There has also been a marked scaling down of war fever in the Pakistani press, which had done much to inflame public opinion and raise the expectation of armed conflict.

Iran's interest in conflict deepens

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

IRAN'S strong protest to the Indian Government over its use of violence against Kashmiri Muslims reveals Tehran's growing interest in the separatist struggle for self-determination in Kashmir.

Mr Morizze Samadli, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tehran, expressed Iran's concern on Sunday about the deteriorating situation in Indian Kashmir, saying that violence and force could not solve the issue.

Mr Samadli said that by detaining fasting Muslims, the Indian Government not only injured the religious sentiments of Muslims throughout the world, but also eliminated the possibility of a peaceful solution in Kashmir.

He urged the Indian Government to take the necessary steps to pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Iran has also offered to mediate between India and Pakistan. India has not so far replied.

Iran is the only Muslim country other than Pakistan to have supported the Kashmiri Muslims' struggle for separation from India. In January this year, Tehran asked Mr Indrajit Gujral, the Indian Foreign Minister, to cancel his visit to Iran in protest at

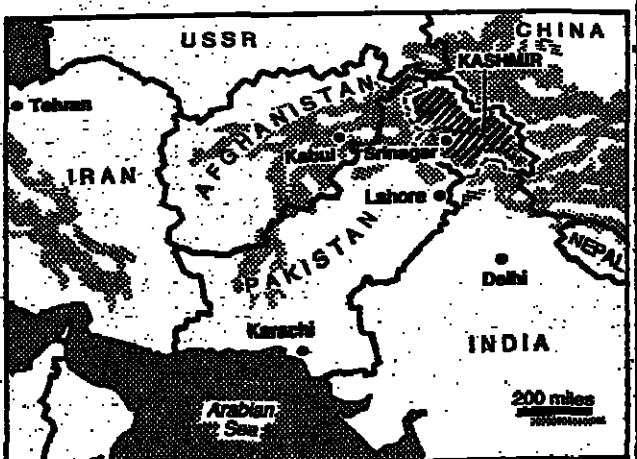
violence against Kashmiri Muslims.

Tehran's sympathy for the Kashmiri secessionist movement is significant, since some of the Shia Muslim sect groups are said to be active in the Kashmir uprising, with the late Khomeini's picture prominently featured in processions in Srinagar before the recent crackdown.

Significantly, representatives of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hezbollah participated in a seminar on the Jihad (Holy War) in Kashmir organized by the Azad Kashmir government in Rawalpindi last month. The presence of the Hezbollah leader at the seminar caused some concern to Miss Benazir Bhutto's Government in Pakistan.

Miss Bhutto herself, meanwhile, is on a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. She was expected to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia yesterday. According to some sources, the two leaders were to discuss the increasing tensions on Pakistan's eastern borders with India.

Pakistan is reportedly consolidating its defence position outside Lahore, 15 miles from the Indian border. Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, is seen as the most likely target of an Indian attack.



Dropping in on Hong Kong



A British Airways Boeing 747 banking low yesterday over Prince Edward Road in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on its approach to the runway at Kai Tak. A new airport, planned for 1997, will allow less hazardous landings clear of residential areas

Inflation plummets in Brazil

From Louise Byrne
Rio de Janeiro

INFLATION in Brazil is expected to fall from 85 per cent to near zero for the first full month of the new Government of President Collor de Mello.

Senhor Zelia Cardoso de Mello, the Economy Minister, announced the new figure set by Brasilia, saying workers' wages would, as a result, not rise in April. The drastic drop in inflation comes after four weeks of shock new economic measures announced by President Collor as he took office on March 15.

The minister claimed that the country had even experienced "deflation" of 0.3 per cent in the first 15 days of the new Government. For this reason, Brasilia felt justified in setting inflation at zero for this month. Workers would be able to negotiate wage increases with their employers if the official rate, due at the end of the month, turns out to be higher than zero per cent.

The drastic drop in inflation comes after the new Government set the prices of basic foodstuffs and froze much of the money in the country's bank accounts for 18 months.

Ortega calls for rebels to disarm

Managua

PRESIDENT Ortega of Nicaragua has increased Sandinista pressure on the President-elect, Señora Violeta Chamorro, to force the unconditional and immediate disarmament of the Contras, hinting on Monday that he was considering postponing the April 25 handover.

Señor Ortega's left-wing Sandinista Government has strongly rejected recent statements by hard-line Contra leaders and members of Señora Chamorro's election alliance that the rebels would remain armed in Nicaragua until big cuts are made in the Sandinista Army.

At a news conference on Monday, Señor Ortega said the Sandinistas were "analysing this situation" when asked if there would be a handover on April 25 if the Contras were not disarmed.

"We are very close to peace and very close to war," Señor Ortega said.

A Contra delegation was expected to arrive in Managua yesterday to discuss terms for a ceasefire with the Sandinistas, Señora Chamorro and United Nations officials.

Diplomats in Managua say that the Sandinistas are em-

phatic that the current command structure in the Sandinista Army remain untouched, although they have agreed the Army will be depoliticized and reduced.

In calling for the immediate disarmament of the Contras and shrouding the April 25 inauguration in uncertainty, the Sandinistas could hope to force Señora Chamorro to make a deal on the Army, a senior Latin American diplomat said.

In earlier statements in Managua and talks last month with Mr Dan Quayle, the US Vice-President, Señor Ortega has said he would hand over the Government to Señora Chamorro even if the Contras were not disarmed.

The diplomat said the Sandinistas would pay a huge price if they decided not to hand over the Government, losing most, if not all, international backing and creating huge rifts inside Nicaragua.

Most of the estimated 10,000 Contras are in Nicaraguan territory. Under an accord reached in March between rebel leaders and Chamorro envoys they must move to internationally supervised enclaves for disarmament after a verified ceasefire. (Reuters)

Jerusalem row over settlers flares again

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

TENSIONS between Christians and Jews in the Old City of Jerusalem, which abated briefly over the Easter weekend, flared again yesterday.

The Israeli press accused the Government of backing 150 hard-line Jewish settlers who have moved into premises claimed by the Greek Orthodox Church, sparking off violent confrontations.

There were calls for a special session of the Knesset to examine reports that a government committee on land questions had approved a budget of £4.6 million to enable the settlers to buy the lease on the disputed building, a ramshackle former hostel for Christian pilgrims next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Yesterday, an unnamed Muslim businessman was said to be trying to buy the lease back on behalf of the Christian community. The settlers include yeshiva (Jewish seminary) students.

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday upheld a magistrate's order evicting the settlers, and fined the settlers' lawyers for having obtained a four-day stay of eviction illegally. The settlers said they would appeal.

Last week, riots broke out as Arab Christians and Greek, Armenian and Catholic priests protested against the takeover of the hostel.

According to Israeli press reports, the settlers have the support of Mr David Levy, the Minister of Housing, and Mr Ariel Sharon, the former general noted for his right-wing views.

Officials of the Armenian Church said an official claiming to represent Mr Levy had approached them with a view to buying buildings for Jewish settlers in the Armenian quarter as well.

The left-wing Israeli newspaper *Davar* said that the settlers' actions in the Christian quarter were not only

causing needless damage to Israel but also bringing Muslims and Christians together in an alliance against the Jews.

The Religious Affairs Minister, Mr Zevulun Hammer, an Orthodox Jew, visited the scene of the dispute yesterday to "calm the situation". The Greek Orthodox leader, Patriarch Diodoros, said, however: "This problem will not be solved until the settlers go." Settlers' leaders said they would stay to emphasize "the Jewish claim to the whole of Jerusalem".

The Old City violence spread to Nablus, on the occupied West Bank, last weekend when leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox churches there held a march to protest against events in Jerusalem. Troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets, and a priest and an Arab girl were injured.

Meanwhile, Mr Sharon, Mr Levy and Mr Benjamin Begin intensified their campaign yesterday as leaders of the Likud right wing to force Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, to cancel his prospective coalition pact with the breakaway Liberal faction. The dispute is expected to come to a head tomorrow when Likud holds a national convention.

The right wing objects to Mr Shamir's reported offer to the Liberals of safe seats and ministerial jobs, with the Ministry of Finance going to Mr Yitzhak Modai, the faction's leader.

Protests erupted in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday as Palestinians demonstrated for the second day to commemorate the killing two years ago of the military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis, Abu Jihad (also known as Khalil Wazir). Nearly 40 Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with Israeli troops.

New Prime Minister for Nepal

Delhi — Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, president of the Nepali Congress Party and Nepal's new Prime Minister, will be sworn in tomorrow at the head of an 11-member coalition Government, which will include two members nominated by King Birendra, both of whom are expected to be moderates (Christopher Thomas writes).

Five of the Cabinet posts will be taken by the Congress, two by the United Left Front — a coalition of seven communist parties — and two by other representatives of newly legalized parties. Mr Bhattarai said the King had emphasized that he wanted to co-operate with him, and had promised that his nominees would not impede the work of the new Government.

Vargas Llosa in poll run-off

Lima — Señor Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist, announced last night that he would contest a run-off election for the presidency, ending a week of suspense over whether he would remain in the race after his disappointing performance in the general election on April 8 (Corinne Schmidt writes).

Señor Vargas Llosa, aged 54, who unexpectedly failed to gain a clear majority in the first round, and Señor Alberto Fujimori, his rival, will go to the polls again on June 3.

US refuses to rejoin Unesco

Washington — The Bush Administration said yesterday that Unesco had not adequately reformed itself and that America would not rejoin it (Martin Fletcher writes).

A report issued by Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, said Unesco was still profligate and badly managed, had not firmly supported press freedom, and sought to isolate Israel while granting special status to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Nature-starved Japanese dial up ersatz wildlife

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

TOKYO residents, who travel three or four hours out of the concrete capital to spot anything greener than a supermarket lettuce or any bird more useful than the screaming crows that monopolize the city's telegraph wires, can now enjoy nature in their armchairs by picking up the telephone.

Instead of joining the weekend crush to country retreats that are, anyway, as crowded on a sunny Saturday afternoon as Wembley on Cup Final Day, Japan's frustrated nature lovers can now dial up a new telephone service that brings the soothing sound of birds and insects into their homes and offices.

Along with widely available video-

tapes that turn their television screens into small windows looking out onto a gently swaying forest or the serene cone of Mount Fuji, the nation's overworked corporate warriors can now come home, sit back, pick up the phone and enjoy a safari without the bother of mosquito bites.

The new service comes from the telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, and began a week ago with the sounds of skylarks and cuckoos. It is called "Naku-naku 7979". Naku-naku translates, roughly, into "sweet-tweet".

There were 10,000 calls in the first week, which NTT thinks is a good start for a new service that has not yet been publicized. After the national advertising campaign begins later this

week, NTT is expecting millions of calls from nature-starved urbanites. To prevent people becoming hooked on ersatz wildlife, the woman who hosts the bird noises on the recordings ends her telephone safari by urging listeners to "please go out and try to find the real sounds for yourself".

But if city dwellers think the grass is always greener elsewhere, they may be baffled to learn that NTT is backing more than one horse by experimenting with a telephone service that plugs diallers into the hubbub of an airport, a train station, a crowded pub, or just a busy family kitchen.

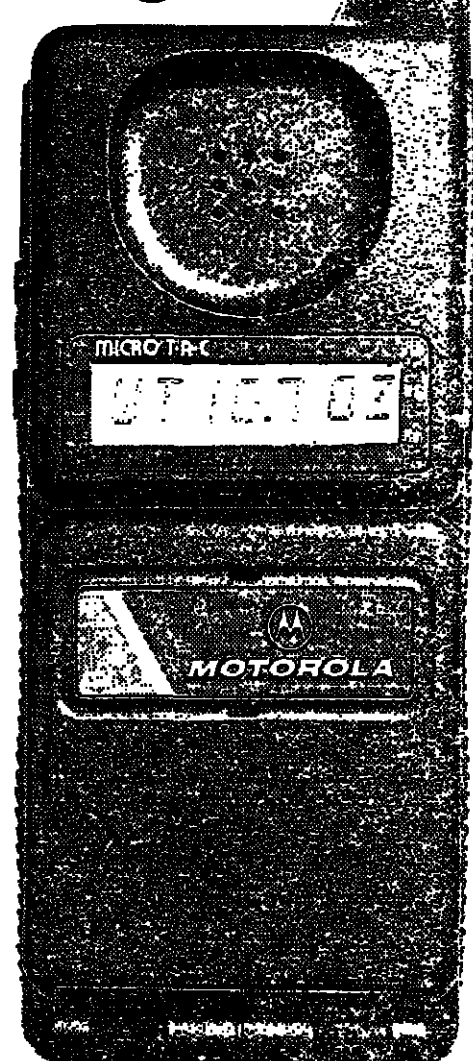
Callers choose one of a range of these locations as background noise for their conversation. NTT says the service aims to be amusing and was

not designed to give errant husbands convincing-sounding alibis. This gimmick is only available at the Matsuya department store in the swanky Ginza shopping district of Tokyo. But NTT is considering whether and how to expand its noise-on-tap offerings.

● Battery breakthrough: Isuzu Motors, the Japanese carmaker, claims to have developed a battery that can be recharged in 10 seconds and produces 20 times more power for its weight than conventional versions, and expects to start commercial sales in two years. Because it uses activated carbon and diluted sulphuric acid, the battery should cause fewer environmental problems than mercury-based and other conventional types of battery, an Isuzu spokesman said.

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Muscovites rally to defend prosecutors of corrupt officials

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

TROOPS and police sealed off Red Square yesterday as thousands of demonstrators gathered in central Moscow to support two Soviet government investigators accused of committing "gross violations of the law" in their fight to expose corruption in high places.

In the Kremlin, adjoining the square, members of the Supreme Soviet debated a report by Mr Roy Medvedev, the former dissident historian. He is the chairman of a parliamentary commission which has been investigating the case of the two men, who appeared yesterday to have gone into hiding to escape arrest.

Mr Medvedev said the whole country had been discussing the fate of the two prosecutors, Mr Telman Gdlyan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov, who successfully convicted for corruption the son-in-law of the late President Brezhnev in 1988.

The commission had confirmed that the two investigators committed "gross violations of the law" while conducting investigations in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. It also

concluded that the Procurator's Office had been justified in dismissing them from leading the investigating team.

But the commission had failed to discover evidence that would testify to the guilt, as alleged by the investigators, of highly-placed officials, such as the leading Politburo conservative, Mr Yegor Ligachov.

Supreme Soviet deputies were handed the commission's report and a request from the Procurator's Office that the two men, who are also people's deputies, be stripped of their parliamentary privilege and arrested. Mr Medvedev said he was surprised that neither man had turned up for the session.

The Supreme Soviet's chairman, Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, said he believed Mr Gdlyan was currently in Armenia campaigning as a candidate in next month's republican parliamentary elections.

There was no hint of Mr Ivanov's whereabouts but it was reported from Leningrad, where he was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies in March 1989, that a demonstration of support had been held there too and that

city councillors had offered him "political asylum".

Beyond the police cordon in Moscow, protesters waved banners saying "Gdlyan and Ivanov, our conscience" and "Gdlyan and Ivanov, the people are with you".

Speakers, some of them Russian Federation deputies, denounced the Communist Party's Central Committee and President Gorbachev's Politburo for failing to act against corrupt officials.

Demonstrators shouted "Shame on the Central Committee, shame on Gorbachev." Many of them were voters from Zelenograd on the outskirts of Moscow who had elected Mr Gdlyan as their deputy.

In a move that surprised some observers, the Medvedev commission was sharply critical of the work and discipline of the Procurator's Office and recommended that the Procurator-General, Mr Alexander Sukharyov, be dismissed. During the debate, Mr Sukharyov tried to defend himself. But the deputies' stony silence as he sat down seemed to put a seal on his fate.

In a live broadcast on Leningrad television last week, which the authorities tried in vain to ban, Mr Ivanov accused Mr Sukharyov of being "the boss of all criminal cases", giving patronage and protection to crime groups and "Mafia members with Communist Party cards".

But there is almost certainly trouble ahead also for Mr Gdlyan and Mr Ivanov. Deputies voted by a substantial majority not to hear their written statement of defence. The two men were expelled in February from the Communist Party arousing public accusations at a Moscow rally that they were the victims of the very people they were trying to expose.

One deputy in yesterday's debate described the two men as "heroes of our time" while Mr Boris Yeltsin, the popular former Moscow City party boss, said he was not satisfied with the conclusions of the Medvedev commission and, in a broad hint that there was much deeper involvement still to be investigated, attacked the party's Politburo for not being tougher and acting sooner against corruption.

The Gdlyan-Ivanov investigation team was 1,000-strong at one time, with more than 200 full-time investigators. Up to 15 of those will face prosecution.

The Medvedev commission had investigated about a dozen cases where people, who had been interrogated by the team, later committed suicide. They had found cases where officials who had taken bribes were reinstated after giving evidence.

Letters had been received by the commission alleging that threatened and actual physical violence had been used in the course of interrogations.



Housewives' choice: Two angry Moscow housewives denouncing corrupt officials during a Red Square rally yesterday attended by thousands of ordinary citizens in the defence of two beleaguered Soviet investigators

Albania signals wish to restore UK links

From Richard Bassett, Saranda Bay, Albania

FEW thorns in the side of relations between nations appear so deceptively calm as does Saranda Bay.

Here, along the pine-clad shores of ancient Illyria, danger seems remote but, as the Royal Navy found to its cost, these clear blue waters once held uncharted perils.

Two British destroyers, HMS Volage and HMS Saumarez, struck mines on October 22, 1946. Volage came off better with only seven killed. Saumarez lost 33 sailors, with a further 39 injured.

British outrage met with equally hostile denunciations from Tirana. Albania could not have laid the mines because it had no ships capable of such actions, it said.

Impartial observers noted that the incident came just as Britain and Albania were to establish diplomatic links.

The International Court in The Hague later found that Albania, whose shore batteries earlier that year had fired on HMS Orion and HMS Superb, was responsible for the damage even if it had not laid the mines. Tirana was to pay compensation of £843,947.

But Albania refused and, in retaliation, Britain blocked Tirana's request for the return of Albania's gold recovered from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War and administered by the Allied Tripartite Commission - Britain, France and America.

Since then, despite "informal contacts" and inconclusive talks in Paris in 1985, attempts at establishing diplomatic relations have foundered on the Corfu Channel incident.

It is a situation which every intelligent Albanian regrets. In recent weeks, however, there have been signs that Tirana is

keen to change this. After the ninth plenum of the communist party in January, Tirana issued a statement that it wished to re-establish links with countries "friendly towards Albania".

Shaban Murati, foreign editor and former editor-in-chief of Zeri i Popullit, the Albanian party newspaper, said: "Albania needs to open itself up and re-establish links with many countries. Links with London are an important step."

The loss of life on the British ships is no longer described as "fictitious", but as "unfortunate" and even "tragic". The possibility of a monument being put up here to the memory of the dead sailors has been discussed in Tirana.

Professor Raben Puto, the leading international lawyer in Albania, said: "We cannot exclude this possibility, though it is something we must go into once diplomatic relations are established. We abide by the decision of the International Court at The Hague, but Britain was wrong in international law to link the incident with our gold."

The professor is keen to point out that the present absence of diplomatic relations is "contradictory". Professor Puto, like many Albanians, recalls with pride how many British travellers visited Albania in the 19th

century, including Byron, who found the Albanians "the most esteemed soldiers in the Turkish service".

Edward Lear, visiting Albania a little later, was no less inspired, though he found the sight of dogs playing with a human head along the coast south of here distressing.

Later, Aubrey Herbert, who twice turned down the Albanian crown, thought the Albanians the most dignified inhabitants of the Balkans. For their part, Albanians today are clearly willing to try to put past differences behind them. Dr Gramoz Pashko, one of Albania's leading economists, said: "I am Anglophile. I see an important role for Britain to play in helping our country. In 10 years, Albania could be a country intersected by motorways with thriving private enterprise."

But all Albanians encountered are adamant that the resumption of talks with Britain must not harm "Albania's prestige". It is a loose phrase, which suggests that all the smooth talk available to modern diplomatic practice will be required if both sides are to receive satisfaction.

Professor Puto said: "We have streets named after Edith Durham, an English lady who loved Albania. We feel England was always our friend. It is a nonsense for us not to have relations with you."

But posters here still urge "vigilance". Old Albanians recall how the British "imperialists" sent agents to land here. There is, however, a belief locally that Anglo-Albanian links should be re-established. "Those who laid the mines wanted to destroy our potential friendship. Believe me they were not Albanians," a fisherman said.

Leading article, page 13

IN THESE days of approaching German unity you can be warded across the border by smiling guards with barely a glance at your passport, or clamber unhindered through the multiplying cavities in the Berlin Wall.

But if you want to hold a conversation across the few yards from East to West Berlin, you stand a greater chance of making contact by using a megaphone rather than the East German telephone system. Try to get through to Bonn and you might as well write a letter, so long is the queue for calls.

The hit-or-miss dialling system often ensues that, in trying to get London, the first three connections are with Budapest, Leningrad and Prague.

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Moves to establish army for Europe

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Editor

A FIRST step towards a European army, based initially on the nine-nation Western European Union but later linked to the European Community, could be taken in Brussels on Monday.

Dr Willem Van Eekelen, secretary-general of the WEU and a former Dutch Defence Minister, is to ask a ministerial meeting to give him a mandate to explore the possibilities of "multinational units".

The idea will not be presented as an embryonic European army because that could arouse British and American fears that the WEU could become a competitor to Nato. At present, it is seen as a non-operational security organization acting as the European pillar of the Atlantic alliance.

Mr Van Eekelen made clear yesterday, however, that his aims were more ambitious than the limited proposals he will put forward on Monday.

"Ultimately, it could become one European army, but I am flexible on that", he said. It would be important, he added, that the US should retain at least a part of its forces in Europe.

He envisages each European country's retaining a home guard while committing its main forces to a common European army. Their heavy weapons would be under its control, but not nuclear forces.

In view of British concerns that any new defence organization could involve an expensive additional bureaucracy, Mr Van Eekelen emphasized that he hoped that could be avoided. He did not explain how political control of such a body could be achieved without a large central organization.

He said he had taken his inspiration from Jean Monnet and other founders of the European Community who envisaged a European defence union. "No single country would be able to command an aggressive campaign," he said.

He hoped that the WEU would eventually develop into a European community defence or security structure while retaining its present functions. "I regard the WEU as a transitional organization on the way to European union," he added.

As a first step WEU members could set up multinational forces at brigade level, modelled on Nato's Northern Army Group. Only four countries would be involved in any one unit.

A start could be made with units from Germany, Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium, but eventually all WEU members would be involved.

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US speeds removal of German listening posts

From Susan Elliott
Washington

FOR budding writers of spy thrillers these are depressing days. The collapse of the Berlin Wall signalled several months ago that Western espionage systems would face an inevitable shake-up by the end of the decade.

Now, the US intelligence community appears to be moving faster than expected towards reducing its eavesdropping services in Germany, the setting in fact and fiction for 40 years of some of the most dramatic spy swaps and defections.

According to a report in The New York Times, the US has started discussing the removal or sharing of control of \$1 billion (£600 million) of sophisticated eavesdropping posts in West Berlin and along the West German frontiers with East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Experts estimate that US intelligence officials could decide the future of the stations within one to two years, or more rapidly than predicted when the two Germanies increased their momentum towards reunification.

The faster-than-expected pace of change will be closely watched by America's allies since West Germany has been the centre of the largest Western spy operations along the Iron Curtain since the downfall of Hitler in 1945. After the war, international spy networks based in West Germany worked together to round up suspected Nazi war criminals and recruit rocket scientists. America's listening posts there are some of the most advanced in the world.

The discussion of the possible cuts is certain to please US officials and members of Congress anxious to cut America's military budget, because they view the Soviet threat as diminished. There is still debate among US officials, however, about whether the US is reacting too hastily to recent political upheavals in Eastern Europe. The majority of US operations against the former so-called East bloc are designed to spy on Soviet military operations or uncover preparations for an invasion from the region.

The reductions under discussion in American spy operations in West Germany will probably cool Washington's warm intelligence relations with Bonn when they take effect. The two countries have exchanged intelligence material for years. Other Western countries are certain to start questioning the importance of allowing the US to continue intelligence operations on their soil.

Under an agreement established by the four main Second World War victors, the US is allowed eavesdropping posts in Berlin. But the interests of the Americans and the Germans are likely to diverge as a united Germany evolves into a new European superpower, US officials told The Times.

Bonn has already told the US that it will not tolerate US intelligence operations aimed at East Germany or Soviet troops after German reunification, although other operations are expected to continue. In non-political areas, such as drug trafficking and terrorism, the US could even increase its operations. One German official told The New York Times that the US will use some of its listening posts in East Germany to check that both East and West are adhering to arms control accords.

The speed of the US intelligence cuts is likely to be determined by the results of national elections in West Germany in December. The Social Democrats would be more critical of American espionage against the Soviet Union or members of the Warsaw Pact than the conservative party of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

Soviet weekly in call on gay rights

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

AN IMPASSIONED plea for an end to the criminal prosecution of homosexuals in the Soviet Union has been voiced by a leading magazine, which said the campaign against Aids is being severely hampered by gays' understandable reluctance to come forward for testing.

In one of the frankest and most sympathetic accounts of the plight of homosexuals in this country, Ogonyok, the influential liberal weekly, said their continued prosecution was a flagrant violation of human rights.

The magazine noted that, despite a promise to remove from the criminal code the article which stipulates up to five years' imprisonment for homosexuality, the law has not yet been changed. Although widely disregarded in Moscow and most big cities, the legislation is vigorously enforced in the provinces.

Ogonyok said that public prejudice against homosexuals, whom it described as "the rejected", was strong, although their numbers were greater than officials have ever admitted. The magazine estimated that up to 5 per cent of Soviet men are homosexual, but said gays accounted for 30 per cent of all the Aids cases so far registered in this country.

Ogonyok interviewed three men in hospital diagnosed as Aids carriers, and gave prominence to their complaints about the way they were treated. One said that anyone publicly identified as an Aids carrier was automatically dismissed from his job, and the police frequently then brought charges against him.

He said promises of anonymous testing and contact tracing were never kept. The police usually spied on those reporting to such clinics, and interrogated victims to give information on their partners. He said that, when referred to

a testing clinic in another town, homosexuals were invariably accompanied by police.

Soviet society, the magazine said, is still repressive to homosexuals: they have nowhere to meet, they are shunned at work and most are forced to get married to conceal their orientation. Ogonyok compared their situation with the relative freedom in the West, and said repression only encouraged further contacts, casual sex and male prostitution.

It said that there was a network of male as well as female prostitutes in most big cities; for foreigners, the rate was \$50 (£30).

The Ogonyok article has been published as the campaign against Aids here is being taken far more seriously, with the numbers of infected rising alarmingly. Newspapers have warned that conditions in the Soviet Union are a recipe for disaster: there are still not enough disposable syringes in hospitals, drug addiction is spreading, homosexuals are frightened of disclosure and public discussion of sex is still inhibited by old taboos.

Nevertheless, glasnost has brought some unusual frankness recently. A television documentary on ethics last week included an interview with a prisoner who spoke of homosexuality in prison camps.

An eight-page unofficial newspaper published by the Anti-Aids Campaign is freely available in underground stations and gives detailed information on sexual practices, myths and homosexuality.

The Ogonyok article is significant not only for its denunciation of a law that almost all Soviet doctors and sociologists regard as oppressive, but for portraying homosexuals as society's victims.

Memorial request for Stalin victims

From Craig Whitney, Moscow

ALL OVER the vast Siberian triangle of suffering, where millions of people died in Stalin's prison camps, a yearning to atone cries out for fulfilment.

Now Ernst Neizvestny, the sculptor who created Khrushchev's tomb in Moscow before emigrating to the West, has been asked by the authorities in cities at the three corners of the triangle to build vast monuments to the victims.

At present living in New York, he said he hoped to start memorials in Vorkuta, Sverdlovsk, and Magadan this year. He said: "In all Russian history, they have never built a monument to what they did wrong. So this is a big, historical duty."

Mr Neizvestny, born in Sverdlovsk, never served time in Stalin's camps. He was so badly wounded in Austria in combat with the Red Army in the Second World War he was left for dead.

In an interview with Soviet journalists and members of the Communist Party Politburo, he said he had been thinking about the memorials for years.

Memorial, a nationwide group of lawyers, scholars, artists, historians and others who suffered under Stalin - or whose parents or grandparents did.

"There are different projects for the three cities, but a single idea," he said in his hotel room, usually reserved for guests of the party Central Committee.

All three monuments will be composed of human masks, and will include the elements of fire and water, he said - the faces weeping with tears that are, again, masks and burning with fire as a symbol both of destruction and eternal memory. Speaking of the plan to have red flames burning in all three monuments, Mr Neizvestny said: "It's the first time I've used esoteric, magical elements."

At Vorkuta, in the far north, and at Magadan, in the far east, the memorials - 60ft high, 200ft long, 135ft wide - will be made of concrete.

He told Moscow News: "I don't want portraits, only masks, masks of the souls." The monument in Sverdlovsk would be two huge masks

Croat parties play nationalist card

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

WITH only days to polling, nationalist fervour has gripped the Yugoslav republic of Croatia, with candidates in the first democratic elections forsaking political issues and seeking to win support by proving their loyalty to the ethnic Croatian cause.

Croatia, with a population of about five million, goes to the polls on Sunday to elect 360 delegates. Some 40 opposition parties have sprung up in the past few months.

The coalition Croatian Democratic Union, under Dr Franjo Tudjman, enjoys massive support and stands for a confederate system or even Croatian independence.

The Croatian Communist Party, which has added to its

name the Party of Democratic Change, seeks to stand little chance. Between the two are a dozen assorted groups, united under Mrs Savka Dabovic-Kucar, a leader in the Croatian reform movement who was purged in the 1970s but whose popularity is still high.

However, she is hardly a match for Dr Tudjman, who has used the electoral campaign to rally the Croats around on the promise of equality and independence, playing on the current fear of Serbia and its communist leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, who is holding on for a centralized federal system, and still clings to unchallenged communism in his own republic. On Monday, the

stadium in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, was packed and the atmosphere charged with nationalist emotions. Tens of thousands chanted "Freedom to Croatia", and sang the Croatian national anthem and waved the Croatian flag as Dr Tudjman continued his electioneering. He said of the communist party: "The wolf can change his coat but never his nature."

Dr Tudjman is at pains to refute accusations that he wants Croatia to secede from Yugoslavia but he emphasizes that unless equal relations are established Croatia might follow the Slovene example or that of the Baltic republics. He dismissed claims he was a nationalist as "lies" invented

by "greater Serbian hegemonists" who could not bear any hint of Croatia. He said: "What Croatia wants is the same as the Serbs took for themselves by force and the Slovenes more recently won for themselves by democratic elections." In Slovenia, the opposition defeated the communists, winning 55 per cent of the vote and securing 47 out of 80 seats in the republic's parliament.

Dr Tudjman warned his supporters to "beware of provocation" as "someone wants to provoke blood and conflict", in order to have a reason to ban his party and arrest its members.

Leading article, page 13

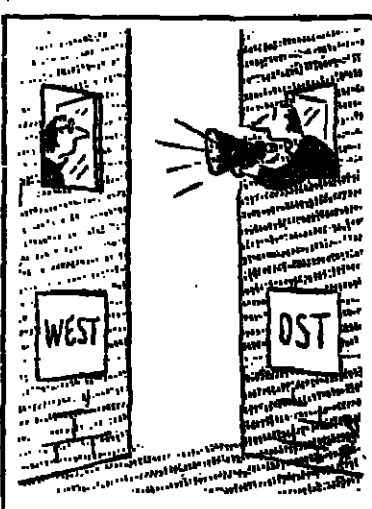
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In five years we'll have a decent phone network.

From Anne McKelvey
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East Europe braces for lengthening dole queues

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

SURPRISINGLY, the queue at Warsaw's white-collar employment exchange in Czerniakowska Street is chumpy, displaying none of the surly, disgruntled managers, redundant planners and others who wait for jobs.

Agneska, aged 30, a stock clerk, has skimmed the newspapers and surveyed the noticeboards. There are offers for engineers, for a maintenance manager at Bialoleka, a high-security prison, for a flower-shop supervisor, for a dozen accountants, but nothing for her.

Large-scale unemployment is still in its early days in Eastern Europe — 200,000 in Poland and edging towards that figure in Hungary. But the unemployed, as even government ministers are admitting, are in for a rude shock.

The World Bank says that unemployment will rise rapidly in Poland this year to 1.7 million. The Soviet Union's cuts in its Hungarian engineering imports put at risk at least 200,000 industrial jobs.

Redundant secret policemen are becoming taxi drivers, or setting up private detective agencies, but most of those cast out from the huge defence planning machine, from heavy industry and collapsing communist party newspapers like the *dole*.

The rules are strict. An unemployed Pole receives his first benefit, 70 per cent of his previous salary, after one month, but that drops to 50 per cent after three months and 40 per cent after six months. It can never be higher than the average national wage of about one million zlotys (£60).

School leavers receive a dole payment equivalent to the lowest national salary, about (£7.30). If somebody rejects two reasonable jobs or retraining offers, he loses the right to benefit.

The number of job offers is shrinking quickly. Last year 250,000 jobs were available. Now there are fewer than

20,000, most of them involving manual labour.

Over the Vistula River, in the bruised Praga suburb, the Warsaw exchange specializing in labourers was not exactly humming with contentment yesterday. Sometimes a building contractor putting up a private house cruised by the queue and offered a few daily labouring jobs.

For the most part only short-term work was available. Jurek, a lathe operator, had been waiting an hour to register as unemployed and he was angrier than most. "We put Solidarity in power — and now what? It's turning on the workers," he fumed.

Indeed, unemployment is the real demarcation line between Solidarity in government and Solidarity as a union.

The banks have been extending millions of pounds of credit to inefficient factories over the past three months to stave off bankruptcies and keep down the number of unemployed.

The Government commitment to unemployment and bankruptcy is strong, however. In recent discussions with the International Monetary Fund, government economists pointed to the rising unemployment rate as a sign that its sharp-shock free-market policies are beginning to work.

Solidarity trade unionists are depressed, and some appear to be plotting within a loose left-wing coalition for the Government's eventual downfall. "We will not accept unemployment," Mr Piotr Kowalski, of Warsaw Solidarity's intervention committee, said. "In our opinion, it is a social illness which must be remedied. However, for the time being it is also a reality and so we have to learn how to fight it."

The problem is that there is no unemployment culture in modern Eastern Europe. The communist social contract with its citizens plainly assumed a guaranteed job for life, so that Poland and other East European countries are stumbling in the dark.

British advisers from the Department of Employment, financed by the £50 million "know-how fund" for Poland, have been trying to help. There will soon be similar missions to Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

A bank is to be established in Poland to provide cheap credit for those wanting to launch small businesses in the service, trade or processing sectors. Regional labour offices will be set up by the end of June, and various groups, such as the International Labour Organization, have agreed to equip new labour exchanges.

The man at the sharp end is Mr Jacek Kuron, the Minister of Labour and a dissident for 30 years. He is the most left-wing member of the Government, and his job is specifically to prepare workers for the sacrifices of market reform.

The most explosive time he faces will be in the late summer, when tens of thousands of school leavers discover that they have no jobs to go to, and factories finally run out of credit.

Warsaw treaty reviewed

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

POLAND is set to renegotiate its friendship treaty with the Soviet Union after an important mission to Moscow by President Jaruzelski.

This is the first step towards reshaping the Warsaw Pact. The new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe are trying to convert the pact from a military alliance into a political grouping, with a reduced role for the Soviet Union and no role for the communist parties.

"We want Polish-Soviet links to be based, not on ideology, but on normal state-to-state relations," the Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Wladyslaw Kaczynski, said yesterday.

The terms of the new relationship were spelt out by President Jaruzelski and President Gorbachev in a joint declaration.

The Soviet Union concedes that Poland, and other countries, have "a free choice of their socio-political systems" and the declaration guarantees Poland's "sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The Soviet Union also offered its full support for Poland's western border with Germany.



Count Raczynski at his London home yesterday. Too frail to attend the Katyn service, he says the Soviet admission of responsibility has not gone far enough

Katyn stirs memories for exiled Polish count

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

FOUR months into his 99th year, the passage of nearly a century weighs heavily on the frail body of Count Edward Raczynski, but not on his remarkably agile mind.

The last surviving link between the Polish Government of 1939, the British governments of the last 51 years, and the present Solidarity-led Government in Warsaw is willing himself to remain on the planet for one more year.

He believes, and most observers agree, that a fully democratic government will be elected in Poland within a year. The Polish government-in-exile in London, which he helped to create in 1939, will then hand over the seals of office and the national standard, which was smuggled out of the country after the outbreak of war.

As patron and former president of the government-in-exile, he will be consulted on the timing of the handover. "I know I cannot expect many more years, but I hope to live to see that day," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Count Raczynski, the last male in a line of Polish land-owning aristocracy, was his country's ambassador to Britain from 1934 to 1939. His estates and palaces were seized or destroyed, and he had to sell works of art he had brought to London to survive.

For the past 20 years, he has lived in a London flat where time seems to have stopped four decades ago. An ancient Blaupunkt radio still warms to Radio Free Europe, and sepia and black and white photographs of Polish gentry line the bookshelves.

On the walls of his office there are paintings of his magnificent estate at Rogalin, now a museum, and his palace in Warsaw, which was burned down with a priceless archive inside it during the war. Count Raczynski can no longer see the picture, nor the photographs of his wife, Cecile, who died in 1963, his eyesight having completely failed.

But his mind is not locked in the past. Ask him about the street of fine houses he used to own in Warsaw and he replies: "Forget it, that's old stuff."

All his thoughts are on a service which will take place on Saturday at the British Memorial to the Katyn massacre of 1940. The Memorial, at Gunnesbury in west London, was built 14 years ago despite strong pressure from the British authorities who were reluctant to allow blame to be clearly attributed to their former wartime ally.

The British Katyn Association, which raised the money to build it, has decided to abolish the annual politically orientated memorial service

which was held there every September as a protest against the refusal of the Soviet authorities to admit responsibility for the massacre.

Sir Frederic Bennett, its chairman, said that after Moscow's admission of guilt it was felt to be no longer appropriate. The time had come for reconciliation.

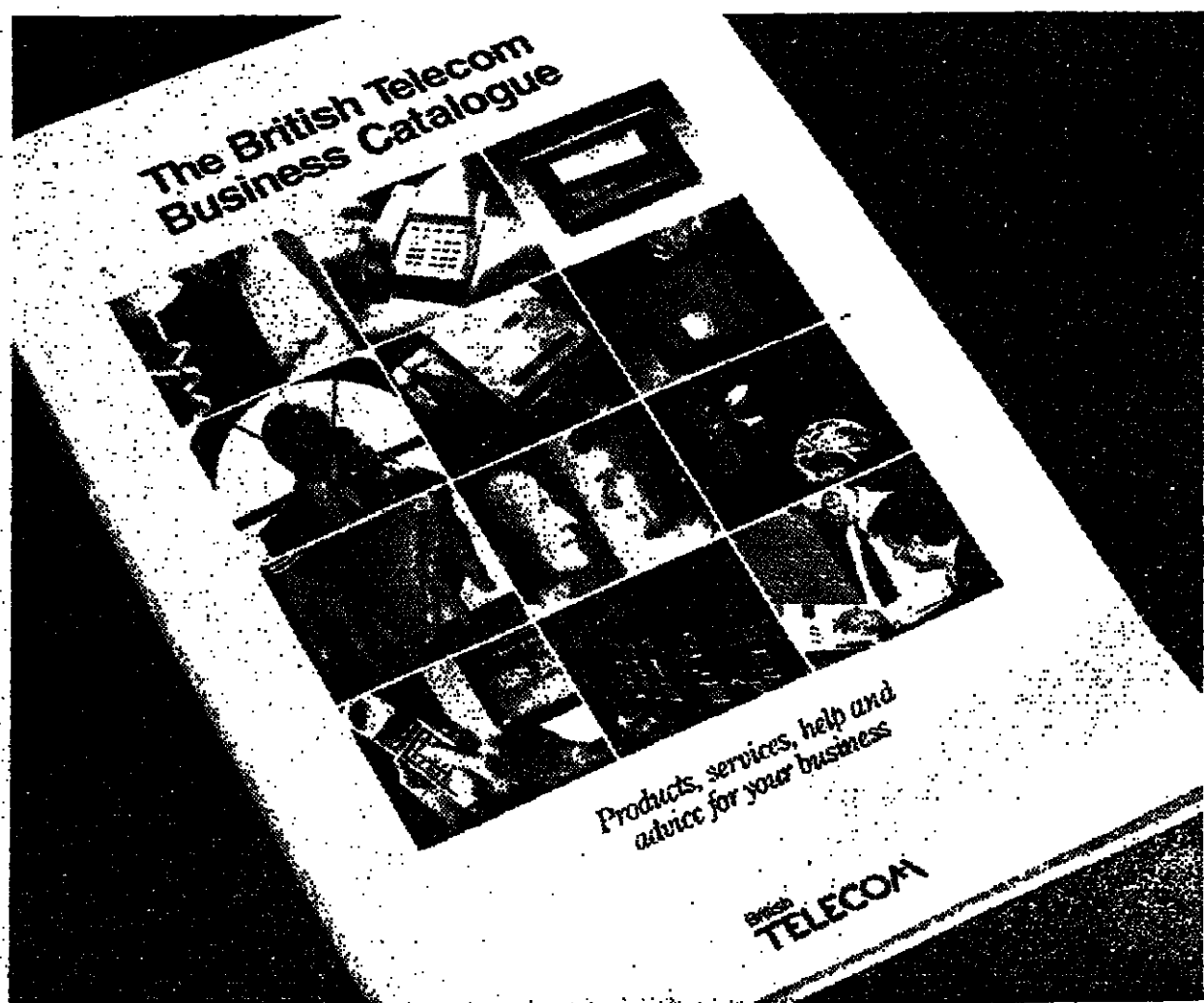
The service will be the last of its kind, but there will be one final blow to Moscow's image. Until now, the wording on the memorial has only attributed blame by implication. On Saturday, a marble slab will be added with an inscription making it explicit, and soil taken from the massacre site by a Polish priest will be laid under it.

Count Raczynski is too frail to move far from his flat, though he has received Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, in the past four months. Instead, a message is to be read on his behalf at the service. He will express "some satisfaction" with the Soviet admission but will say it has not gone far enough.

He said his message would also confess to responsibility for the deaths of 10,000 Polish officers killed at Starobelsk and Ostaszkov, apart from the 5,000 shot at Katyn.



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Closing the teacher gap

Peter Dolton

The supply and demand for teachers has been out of balance for many years. A long period of shortage up to the early 1970s was followed by a surplus. Today we have enough teachers in total, but too few in certain subjects (maths, science, modern languages, crafts, religious education), and in certain geographical areas (most markedly inner London and the South-east). There are also many trained teachers not working in teaching, but who would do so if the conditions were right.

The market for teachers is unlike most conventional markets, for the public sector dominates the demand, and the government is directly responsible for their supply. The government can set desirable pupil/staff ratios and maximum class sizes, and can alter the number of trainees. And although it does not have control of day-to-day spending on schools, the government does of course determine teachers' pay.

Two elements, however, are largely outside government control: changes in the birth rate and, more important, changes in the relative pay and conditions of private-sector occupations. The main problem of teacher supply is the poor relative pay.

Between 1960 and 1986, the average real earnings of teachers rose from £7,300 a year to nearly £11,000 at 1985 prices, although the process was erratic and marked by large, infrequent rises. However, the earnings of teachers in this period did not keep pace with average non-manual employees in the private sector. Teachers' starting salaries are still relatively good (as first salaries for graduates), but earning prospects in mid and late career are poor. The growth that can be expected in earnings is a vital factor in choice of employment.

This is one of the main reasons why fewer and fewer graduates are entering teaching. The proportion of male graduates entering the profession has fallen from 34 per cent in 1960 to 14 per cent in 1980, while among female graduates the percentage has fallen from 61 per cent to 35 per cent. Meanwhile, the proportion of graduates entering commerce has multiplied more than fourfold.

Little can be expected in the long term from the most commonly suggested remedies for alleviating the teacher shortage: using unqualified ancillary staff, delaying retirements, allowing pupil/teacher ratios to rise, or reducing the length of schooling (either by shortening school terms or lowering the school-leaving age). Even the Government's scheme of bursaries for trainee teachers in shortage subjects is unlikely to succeed: no bright student is going to be lured into studying for a few hundred pounds more a year when he faces the prospect of a lifetime of low wages.

If the Government is serious about revitalizing teacher recruitment, there is no alternative to an immediate across-the-board pay increase to restore pay levels to those of other non-manual earnings. This should be backed by a commitment to future index-linked rises to maintain the relative level of pay. The pay structure must also provide greater scope for development and career progress.

These measures could be supplemented by more extensive use of housing allowances and other fringe benefits to help recruitment in areas of high housing prices and living costs.

Subsidiary improvements of particular interest to women would be to allow more flexible use of part-time teachers with job-sharing arrangements and more flexible hours of work, and provision of more training and conversion courses for teachers who have been out of the job for some time or wish to return in a shortage subject.

Teachers recruited from other occupations should be given appropriate allowances. The old Burnham scale incorporated such increments, and this element of the old pay structure should be retained.

Local authorities should make available to school heads a flexible contingency fund for pay increments, at the discretion of the headteacher, in subjects or geographical areas where there is a shortage.

I am not suggesting differentials between subjects or regions, but a flexible arrangement which allows some latitude in appointments in cases of severe shortage and local difficulty. It must be possible to organize a system which is acceptable to the unions and the teachers.

One final point: it is time the Government provided statistics on the number of trained teachers in the country, the number of teachers trained each year, the level of wastage from teacher training courses, the number of graduates taking up first appointments in teaching, the wastage rate from the profession, and the age composition of the teaching force.

Much of this data is not given in official sources, and the information that is available is published after a crippling two-year lag. To maintain an accurate picture of teacher supply, these figures should be collected annually and published promptly.

Any government must count the cost of innovations. In this case the costs may be considerable. However, the Government should also estimate the benefits of these suggestions: the revitalization of our state education system and the adequate training of our future labour force. The author is an economist at Bristol University currently researching teacher supply.

CRAIG BROWN

The Suffolk village has become the natural home of the female crime-writer. Patricia Highsmith used to live in Suffolk, and so did Dorothy L. Sayers. Both P.D. James and Ruth Rendell still live there. The unobtrusive may believe that the average Suffolk village lacks the necessary proportion of deranged mass-murderers to satisfy the demands of the modern crime-writer, but a glimpse at *The Country Diary of a Crime-Writing Lady* shows that this is not quite so.

Monday: The sun glimmers on the village pond. The duck waddles along, looking almost human. On the village green, the sea-saw rocks back and forth. A solitary kite swoops and hovers above the village church, where the rector is preparing for the Harvest Festival. The distant purring of a lawnmower fills the air, interrupted by a faint coo-coo-coo from the village dove-cote. In the Olde Tea Shoppe, Mrs Tinkle warns the pot, ready for another day. Down at the barn, PC Humphreys leans on his rusty old bike, shaking his head. "She never 'ad a chance," he says, looking at the putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, as has just been discovered on the sea-saw, "she never 'ad a chance."

Tuesday: Today's putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, has just been discovered squeezed inside Mrs Tinkle's teapot. Mrs Tinkle now recalls that the pot has been pouring badly these past six weeks. This is the seventh victim to be discovered inside a week. People say there's a killer on the loose.

Wednesday: I pop into the post office. The village post-mistress, a transverse kleptomaniac with clear psychopathic tendencies, trills a merry greeting. I spot the Rector, browsing through the greetings cards, absent-mindedly employing his bicycle glock to strangle an errant goldfish. "For the first five years of my life, I was brought up by my half-crazed mother to believe that I was the goldfish she had always wanted," he roars. "She'd keep me afloat in the bath all day dressed in orange, feeding me

titbits and forcing me to open and shut my mouth. There's not a goldfish alive towards whom I feel neutral." I smile reassuringly. On my way out, the village blacksmith, an ex-Morris dancer who cracked under the pressure, comes in to report an unpleasant encounter. "I stopped to pick up what I thought was a hitch-hiker. I gave her a helping hand into my vehicle, and was somewhat bewildered when she failed to express her gratitude. Conversation, too, proved a mite one-sided. Taking a closer look, I realized that I had given a lift not to a hitch-hiker but to a putrefied corpse, hideously disfigured. It's been one of those days." The police now believe that there is a killer at large, and he may be ruthless.

Thursday: To tea with Mrs Tinkle. Walking to the back room, I lose my way and stumble into a dark cellar. There I catch sight of a coven of witches drawn from all walks of life, their voices raised in a manic chant: "Neighbours good needs everybody." It is the theme tune from *Neighbours*, fiendishly reversed. On my way home, I encounter PC Humphreys, who offers me a dead mouse from a brown paper bag. "Delicious," he says, but I refuse, for he has no vinaigrette. There is something odd about him, but I can't for the life of me think what it is. The postman brings more bills and a putrefied corpse, hideously disfigured, which I can't remember ever having ordered.

Friday: Police from five counties arrived today, encircled the village pond and arrested the duck on eight counts of murder. The real duck was killed long ago, and the false duck is in fact a psychopathic dwarf, forced by an overbearing father to wear a bill, hold his hands behind his back and waddle. He has been determined to wreak his revenge on society ever since. The sun glimmers on the village pond was actually a laser beam, erected by Nazi sympathizers, and the solitary kite has been sending messages to a disgruntled serial-killer in a nearby village. And as for the noises in the dove-cote — they came from a gang of aggrieved anarchists, hell-bent on a coo.

Marcus Binney warns against the damage wrought by enthusiastic restorers with money to burn

Kindness that ruins our cathedrals

Our great cathedrals seem to lurch from one financial crisis to another. Save the Mappa Mundi, save the Spar at Salisbury, the view of Ely across the Fens; only a few years ago the Prince of Wales was leading an appeal to save Canterbury Cathedral itself.

Amid such dramas there is an instant attraction in the offer by Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, to mount a national drive to put our cathedrals in perfect order in time for the millennium.

Yet were such a programme launched, and £50 million a year raised and spent every year for the next 10 years, it would provoke a controversy as great as any in Victorian times, when unsympathetic cathedral "restoration" prompted William Morris to form the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, to save cathedrals not from the ravages of time but the zeal of the restorers.

The fury that erupted in the correspondence columns of *The Times* 20 years ago over the

treatment of statues on the west front of Wells Cathedral was a vivid illustration of the passions that any work on cathedrals can inflame. But out of that controversy arose a new system, of careful research and wide-ranging consultation before any work begins. The specially formed Wells Committee established a dialogue between archaeologists, art historians and museum conservators, and brought to Wells the world's leading specialists on air pollution and stone decay. At the end of all this, the Dean and Chapter, and their architect, could fairly claim that they had had the benefit of the best experience and most up-to-date scientific analysis, while satisfying the "anti-scrape" lobby that they were doing no more than was absolutely necessary.

Cathedrals, like other major historic buildings, are increasingly subject to what I call the penicillin syndrome. Sir Christopher Wren's sage advice, "Stave off decay by daily care", is quickly forgotten. After all, restoration is much more glamorous than

maintenance. Usually, a thorough programme is drawn up to ensure that the building is in first-class order for the next century. That sounds commendable and may be inevitable when an insurance company is investing in a historic property on a prime site in the high street, but it tends to mean that original timbers are stripped out, the roof is entirely reconstructed, cornices and doors are renewed and glass is replaced wholesale. Reinforced concrete and steel girders are introduced, although experience shows they may become a conservation problem before anything else. In the process, a protected property becomes a replica.

Yet our cathedrals are self-evidently works of art, and it is vital that authentic fabric and finishes are carefully respected.

With cathedrals, the issue is compounded by the sheer cost of scaffolding to great heights. Once the scaffolding is up, there is inevitably pressure to replace stonework and carving which may be good for 30 or 40 years more.

The problem has been made much more difficult by accelerating atmospheric pollution, and the recognition that many of the statues on English cathedrals deserve to be treated as museum pieces, although until recently they were dismissed by art historians as second-rate compared to those on the Continent.

A measure recently approved by the General Synod should ensure that all cathedrals take advantage of international experience. The measure, now awaiting approval by Parliament, will establish a fabric committee for each cathedral, which must be consulted and ultimately approve all major work affecting the structure and works of art within it. Where there is disagreement, the matter can go to the main Cathedrals Fabric Commission in London, with provision for a hearing similar to a public inquiry.

Nearly half of our cathedrals have already set up fabric committees, finding that the best and busiest experts are willing to give their time on a voluntary basis.

Quite a number of cathedrals now have their own mason's yard. What is clear is that each also needs a conservation laboratory and photographic archive (or access to one). On the Continent this is often provided through the regional historic monuments office. While opening a dialogue with English Heritage, the Deans and Chapters have chosen their own independent but parallel system. The crucial thing in the next 10 years is that it should prove as much a brake as an accelerator.

So much masonry and carving is being discarded and replaced that one enterprising peer has set himself the ambition of having a piece of every English cathedral in his garden. As yet he still has to find a rose window. While no one should want to thwart such a splendid venture, the new cathedrals' fabric committees should contemplate whether the creation of such a market in second-hand stone is necessary or desirable.

The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Germans find a substitute for abandoned patriotism

Ronald Butt reports on the reasons underlying Kohl's concern for closer European integration

Are German reunification and the new freedom of the former Soviet satellites reasons for hurrying towards a more politically integrated European Community, as virtually every EC government except the British believes? Or do the seismic upheavals in European politics suggest, as Mrs Thatcher insists, that the Community should concentrate instead on seeking a wider and looser association which would embrace at least some East European states?

The outlook in Eastern Europe is too obscure for any such early link with it to be practical. More fundamentally, the great disparity of wealth between the rich Western and poor Eastern states would make formal association very difficult. In contrast, every member of the EC apart from Britain believes that German reunification reinforces the need for some kind of political integration within the Community itself. That was the conviction of everyone I talked to during a visit to Bonn: politicians, civil servants, economists and businessmen. It is also overwhelmingly the belief of the German people.

In part, of course, this is because a political structure for the Community is seen as a means of correcting a situation in which too many decisions are taken by Brussels bureaucrats instead of by elected representatives. Influenced by the success of their own federal experience, Germans are too inclined to dismiss lightly the problems that a federalized community would pose for states with a long history of unitary nationhood. Chancellor Kohl, for instance, sees no point in trying to give national parliaments more power to control the European Commission. He thinks this would simply complicate and slow down the business of decision-making. The Germans regard the practice of the Danes, whose ministers must have the assent of their national parliament before agreeing to anything in the Council of Ministers, as a lesson in what to avoid.

But the deeper reason for the Germans' advocacy of a politically

integrated community is their country's position in Europe and its relation to its allies. Chancellor Kohl wants to make it quite clear in the EC that reunification will not (as the French in particular fear) distract the Germans from their European allies.

Herr Kohl believes that political integration in the Community is also the best way for Germany to ally the fears of the nations to the east (especially Poland) that it might take a neutralist path which could lead to trouble. The fear is not, of course, of a return of Nazi tyranny but that Germany might once more throw its weight around, on account of its strength and its geographical position in Europe, as it did after 1870, but this time economically.

The Germans' general will for European integration, however, does not mean that they have a clear scheme for it. Their present thinking does not extend beyond giving more power to the European Parliament and more clearly defined authority to the president of the Community. "We only want to make an issue of political union and talk about it. We don't have a plan and we don't want one," said one official.

Even if it were so inclined, the West German government would not have much time to devote to the detail of political union within the Community, for the political problems arising from reunification will leave little energy for anything else for two years at least. There is bound to be tension in East Germany as the initial consequences of the shift from socialism are felt. As unproductive factories are shut down and workers are laid off, East Germans will experience unemployment. Industry will be burdened by inherited debt, and resources will have to be found to counter the ecological damage caused by primitive industrial methods. The break-up of large agricultural collectives and the removal of subsidies will not be easy.

On the other hand there will be opportunities for small businesses and tourism, and an early boom in the building of roads, railways,



industrial premises, hotels and restaurants. But first, as a precondition of reunification, agreement must be reached between the two German governments on economic and monetary matters, social security, pay and pensions, and the legislation for a free-market economy to allow for privatization. All this will have to take effect on the same day.

On a fixed day, the Deutschmark will become the only legal currency, with prices, wages and rents all being adjusted together. Chancellor Kohl hopes that agreement on all this can be reached in principle by May and formalized in the summer. This exercise will result in an injection of money into the East, and this carries an inflationary risk. But there will also be an increase in the supply of

consumer goods to mop up surplus money, which the West German government believes will keep inflation under control.

It will not be easy for the man in the East German street to adjust. What preoccupies him is how soon he can exchange his Trabi for a Volkswagen. Almost certainly, the East Germans will expect more of the West Germans than is quickly possible. During the transition, ex-communists in the East will be ready to declare that the difficulties are evidence of capitalist exploitation and of lack of care for the workers. On present evidence, Chancellor Kohl will easily win the West German elections this year; less predictable are the results of the first pan-German elections which are due at the end of 1991 or early in 1992, if

So the issues of German reunification and European union march together. Once the first phase of reunification is over, Germany will turn in more detail to the political integration of the Community. It is arguable that its own unity could revive the national patriotism that Germany has for so long studiously defied itself. But at present, European patriotism is a widely felt and virtuous substitute for the patriotism of this narrower sort.

Whatever the strength of Britain's own reasons for resisting European political union, we should be quite wrong if we failed to recognize that Germany's brand of European federalism essentially represents its will for peace and for a firm and abiding place in the Western system of nations.

Reith at last laid to rest

Lord Reith, the BBC's omnipotent founding father, was often accused by his minions of seeking to emulate the status of the Almighty. Certainly the organization is not taking any chances. For the 20 years since Reith's death, the BBC has continued to send royalty payments to him at his last known address every time his recorded voice was broadcast. The last cheque was posted to Reith at his former address in the Lollards Tower at Lambeth Palace, for his "appearance" in a programme celebrating the centenary of his own birth.

Sir William van Straubenzee, the former Conservative MP, who now occupies the Lollards Tower, returned the cheque with a note: "Lord Reith died in 1971 and while, of course, I realize that his influence remains powerful within the BBC, I think he is not likely to be able to appreciate the payment from wherever he now is." The BBC duly assured Sir William that its records had been updated, but two months later a further cheque arrived. The BBC now promises that no further payments will be made — finally accepting, it seems, that Reith no longer rules. Hence, perhaps, Duke Hussey's plan to slash staff by a third.

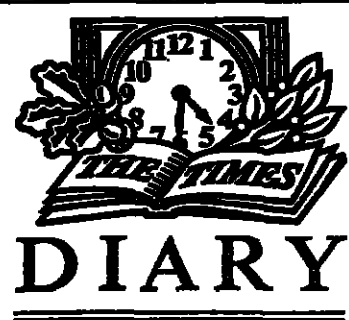
Spot the slip

Among the heartening messages following the first appearance of this diary yesterday was an inquiry as to its *raison d'être*. Perhaps we can respond by setting out what we

hope not to be with a quotation from *The House the Berrys Built*, Duff Hart-Davis's inside story of *The Daily Telegraph*, which is published tomorrow. That paper's former editor, William Deedes, records what its readers expected of its diary: "Supreme snobbery and the impression of learning without its difficulties, which meant that the latter had to be shallow and that the former had to be constant." The book also contains a timeless piece of advice from Hugo Worthman, who edited the *Telegraph's* diary for 25 years. Worthman declared that a classic diary story had three elements, "one fact, one generalization and, preferably, one very slight inaccuracy." That sound advice continues to serve diarists to this day.

Give and take

Michael Heseltine's offer to pay the poll tax on behalf of a dozen personal staff and workers on his Oxfordshire estate may not be quite so generous as it seems. The payments will run into several thousand pounds, but the Inland Revenue says that Heseltine should be able to regard the money as a cost incurred in business and so enjoy a reduction in tax liability. Conversely, that might mean that his employees find their tax burden increased as they become liable for income tax on the poll tax paid on their behalf. Heseltine said yesterday that in such an event, he would cover his employees' additional tax liability, but conceded that he would also benefit from a reduced tax liability himself. Although the Department of the Environment refused to comment, the affair



seems to have exposed a loophole. Parliament cannot have intended that the community charge would reduce central government income from business in this way. As for the famous rise in local accountability from the charge, presumably Heseltine's workers will not be waxing angry over extravagance by their local council. No prize for guessing whom they will thank instead.

No segregation

Among the black elite who met Nelson Mandela on his flying visit to London — Jesse Jackson, Bernie Grant and Keith Vaz — was a surprising guest: Ivor Stanbrook, a backbench Tory with a reputation as a fully paid-up member of the party's hang-'em-and-flog-'em tendency. Stanbrook, MP for solidly white, middle-class Orpington, became the only member of his party to shake the great man by the hand at the select supper given by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal. Despite his otherwise right-wing reputation, Stanbrook has been consistently and outspokenly critical of the Pretoria government,

and that is what earned him the invitation. "I'm depressed by the inability of Western governments to compel the South African government to dismantle apartheid," he says. Stanbrook was impressed by Mandela, who, he thinks, "has a degree of saintliness like Cardinal Hummer". Asked by Stanbrook if and when he would be meeting Mrs Thatcher, the ANC vice-president assured him that he is anxious to do so on his next visit.

Eye to the future?

Neil Kinnock's improving image in the United States, underlined by George Bush's comments in *The Times* yesterday, was first evident when a group of US congressmen had coffee recently with the Labour leader at a private meeting at the House of Commons. One senior Labour MP reports: "The congressmen were fighting with each other to be photographed with Kinnock. A few years ago you would have had a job to get them even to meet him." But observers say that the transformation of Kinnock's transatlantic image really began in 1988, during the American presidential election, when one of the Democratic contenders, Joseph Biden, used large tracts of Kinnock's speeches during his ill-fated campaign. Although the plagiarism proved Biden's undoing, many say it was the making of Kinnock in America eyes. Nor was this week's interview the first time that Bush has sent warm signals to the Labour leader. On his last visit to Britain, the American president paid fulsome tribute to Kinnock and his wife, who were fellow

guests at an official Downing Street dinner. The hostess according to one of the guests sat in stony silence, looking far from amused.

If the wig fits

Rumpole is back. Leo McKern, who threatened to stop playing the fabulous barrister, has resolved its differences with Thames Television and a new series is to be shot in the autumn. Furthermore, John Mortimer is hard at work on a new collection of stories. They will include, he says, one about a judges' strike in which wigs are exchanged for cloth caps (from Harrods, naturally) and M14d refers to the criminal in the dock as "brother". Last week Mortimer published an anthology of *Great Law and Order Stories*, with a startlingly accurate introduction which predicted that the prison system was about to explode. Perhaps his strike story is not so fanciful: does he know something we have missed about the continuing judicial fury over the Lord Chancellor's reforms to the legal profession?

Emerald exile

According to Aer Lingus's current glossy advertising, "It took James Joyce a lifetime to discover Dublin." This might come as a surprise to the author of *Dubliners*, who abandoned the city at the age of 10 for the bright lights of Trieste and Paris. Although all his great works were based in Dublin, he pointedly avoided the place of his birth for nearly four decades before his death in 1941.



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LABOUR TRAVELS HOPEFULLY

President Bush's declaration in *The Times* yesterday of his confidence in his country's continuing good relations with the United Kingdom is significant, but not in the most obvious sense. The domestic politics of an ally are not the business of the United States, except to the extent that they affect its external relations.

Though Labour's economic policy, and its recent, much-vaunted enthusiasm for free markets, may have international implications, it is its foreign and defence policy which primarily concerns the United States. Labour's attempt to remodel its domestic policies are relevant only in so far as they have helped it to appear to British electors as a more credible candidate for government.

Much cloud still hangs over the detail of Labour's attitude to defence. President Gorbachev's revolution and the imperative race towards some nuclear and conventional disarmament have helped Labour off the unilateralist hook which did so much damage to its public standing at the 1987 election. But its left-wing, on parade again this week at the National Union of Teachers, is alive and kicking and will resist any shift away from total, unilateral nuclear disarmament — a shift on which Mr Kinnock himself is still far from clear.

On coming to power, Labour would adopt a policy of "no first use", but instead of promptly abandoning the British deterrent it would put Polaris and such Tridents as had been completed into the general nuclear disarmament negotiations. The aim, as Mr Kinnock has put it, would be to get something for something instead of giving something for nothing. Much ambiguity still surrounds the question of what sort of negotiation it is that can presume its own outcome — the abandonment of the weapon at issue.

That said, the future of Britain's individual nuclear capability is not crucial to the United States. What matters is Britain's firmness under Labour within Nato and the European Community, and on both Washington is now

indicating some reassurance. Washington has perhaps learnt from its experience with Mr Harold (now Lord) Wilson, that for all the philosophical debating within the Labour Party, a promise to set about "negotiating" nuclear weapons meant no more than just that. Though Polaris was formally assigned to Nato, freeing Labour's conscience of the burden of having Britain as an independent nuclear power, the British Government still had the last word over its use.

Such manoeuvring for British home consumption mattered little to Washington, which cared only about Britain's firm commitment to a nuclear alliance, and of that Lord Wilson left the Americans in no doubt. Like most Labour leaders, he became an almost obsessive Americanophile. Mr Kinnock's dismay at his brush-off by President Reagan and his eagerness for American endorsement at present suggest that he will prove as soft a touch in this respect as his predecessors.

Even if this were not so, hard politics would call President Bush to be friendly with whomever was British Prime Minister. Though the President gave a warning against jumping to conclusions about Mrs Thatcher's present standing in the opinion polls, the current political scene in Britain must lead his Administration to try to understand Labour. It is in that spirit that Labour's shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, will be received in Washington this week, and Mr Kinnock possibly after him. Washington is nothing if not the home of *realpolitik*.

In this spirit of realism, Americans (despite President Bush's current preoccupation with Germany) will want to know more about Labour's true state of mind on Nato, the British contribution to it and its attitude to the nuclear umbrella. That, and the reality of its policy for the British deterrent, is something on which the voters here also deserve enlightenment. They will not find much by combing Labour's policy documents and statements. It will be a function of the political debate in Britain in the coming months to compel Mr Kinnock and his party to say more.

LAISSEZ-FAIRE PATRIOTISM

The impending defeat of the Communist Party in Croatia next Sunday, which follows its sister party's Easter rout in Slovenia, has implications for the whole political economy of Eastern Europe. These elections are billed as nationalist triumphs, and so they are; but they have another dimension too. Proponents of a free market philosophy will have achieved the peaceful conquest of two provinces — the most advanced in the Balkans — which are preparing to pursue an independent destiny outside the ramshackle, and Serb-dominated, Yugoslav federation. The Slovenes and Croats are ready to flee this miniature reincarnation of the Habsburg Empire in order to sink or swim in the more congenial company of Italian or Austrian capitalists.

That national sentiment has already played an important part in Poland, East Germany and Hungary, as well as in the Baltic states, is doubted by no one. Yet central European nationalism — sinister as it seems to liberal Westerners — is an expression of the yearnings of downtrodden people to run their lives in their own way. Hence it is only apparently a paradox that irredentist Romanians, Magyars or Germans now vote for parties which appear to draw their economic inspiration from the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Georgian Edinburgh.

The power of capitalism to tame nationalism is, in the long run, enormous and incomparable. But nations which have suppressed their individualities under socialism for several decades will need time to learn that the new "citizens' state" is no more efficacious a means of their salvation than the old communist one. In these capsize command economies, leaking fast through newly unbattered hatches, time is the scarcest commodity of all.

The handful of indigenous free market economists who are now running some of these countries are uncovering problems indreamt

of in the rarefied seminar rooms of the LSE or Harvard. These victims of socialism have much to teach their more fortunate contemporaries in the West — and social democrats in the West are at last taking heed.

In the latest issue of the journal *Communist Economies*, for instance, two former dissident economists from Czechoslovakia and Poland offer first-class studies of the well-meaning but disastrous reforms of the past decade. Their common problem is made only slightly easier by the fact that, since the articles were written, Vaclav Klaus and Leszek Balcerowicz have become their respective countries' finance ministers.

They inherit a legacy not merely of grim totalitarianism but of high expectations, quick cures and comprehensive disillusionment. As Mr Klaus puts it, "shock therapy would be an easier and definitely a more reliable solution than prolonged muddling through." In other words, there is no middle way. In such circumstances, *laissez-faire* economists need a heavy dose of pragmatism to get their message across. They need to beat the patriotic drum if they are to retain popularity.

The "capitalist" parties which are making the running in prosperous Slovenia and Croatia — Mr Jozef Pucnik's Demos and General Franjo Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union — are also responding to the longstanding threat of Slobodan Milosevic's Serbian nationalism. The latter is rooted in the Titoist partisan past and appeals most to the backward regions.

Slovenia and Croatia may yet become a Balkan Benelux on the fringes of an enlarged European Community, while Mr Milosevic maintains the hegemony of the Serbs over an impoverished Macedonian, Montenegrin and Albanian rump. That would be a sad end to Yugoslavia. But its capitalist crusaders must be canny politicians, or they will merely reopen imperfectly healed war wounds.

CONSPICUOUS LEISURE

The week after Easter, like the week after Christmas, shows to the world that of all candidates for the title of "English disease", workaholic is not a serious contender. The return to work after the festive break is tentative and gradual, like a national convalescence. It would be wrong, however, to deduce from yesterday's quiet roads and silent offices that the English find working a pain. It is nearer the truth to say they find not working a pleasure.

Not working? A knock on any suburban door this week is likely to be answered by a man with brush in hand and paint in hair. He will have the slightly abstracted air of someone intent on such lofty aims as producing a perfectly painted runless door. More ambitious souls do their own plumbing and plastering, and all before the garden centre closes, for this is April, when a young man's fancy turns not only to the obvious but also to compost. Before he can present his love with a rose newly sprung in June, its bed must be mulched, powder forked into its roots, fungicide sprayed on its leaf buds, the arrival of greenfly watched, wind-rock prevented.

What Briton dares call this not working? That is an accountant's way of talking. He may expatiate on the gross annual turnover of the retail DIY sector or the growth rate of the bedding plant industry. But there is more to bed-making than is dreamt of in such philosophy, namely what happens to the said plants and paint-pots once they are bought. Nobody really believes that work is only work when the worker is paid by somebody else to do it. Our subsistence farming ancestors with their three acres and a cow would have found the distinction meaningless.

Such work is done for the best reason of all,

which is personal satisfaction, and that is the end purpose of remuneration for "proper" work as well. Britons derive huge enjoyment from the non-pecuniary reward of leisure activity. But in order to hide this fact from economists and foreigners, we allow them to refer to it as amateur, and pretend that such leisure/work is not a serious contribution to the nation's wealth.

That which has great if unquantifiable value to individual citizens is not to be dismissed as mere leisure. There is a mischievous pleasure in knowing that activities which add so much to the quality of life can remain safely outside the reach of bosses and taxmen, because they are too dense to recognize its economic significance. They only know what they can measure, and they cannot measure leisure or pleasure.

Those relative scales of economic success which regularly put the British down among the Italians just because the statistics say so should accordingly be taken with a pinch of Growmore. Statistics not only ignore the black economy, they also ignore this other economy, the peculiarly British green economy, which is one of the glories of the nation.

Britons have chosen to turn as much as they can of their pleasant land into one enormous garden. Many spend much of what is euphemistically termed their "spare" time breaking their backs and bruising their knees to keep it beautiful. They treat their houses in the same way. Along with family life, and by no means unconnected with it, these are among the primary springs of personal contentment. Not rushing back to what officialdom calls "work" is not a sign of national slackness. It is the mark of a nation which does not count all its wealth in cash.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inflation on an upward trend

From Professor Alan Day
Sir, We have been told again and again over the last three years, both by the Government and by most of the economic forecasters, that Britain is about to face a temporary upward "blip" in the inflation rate but that in a few months' time, or at worst next year, inflation will fall back again. Now, once again, we are being told the same thing.

Perhaps things will be different next time, but an explanation of the repeated failures of these promises can easily be found in the standard professional economic literature that arose from the great debate between Keynesians and monetarists — an explanation which deserves more attention than it has received in this country, although most other market-oriented industrial countries are acting as though they have learned the lesson.

The critical relationship is that between the level of unemployment and the acceleration (or deceleration) of inflation. If unemployment is below some "core" or "natural" level, which unhappily may be around 10 per cent of the labour force in this country, then there is a persistent tendency for inflation to get faster and faster.

The mechanism which causes this to happen is the attempt by sellers of labour or of goods to adjust their selling price to their experience of faster inflation than

they had expected when they last changed their selling price. This adjustment leads to a further acceleration of inflation and further disappointment of expectations, as the sum total of individuals in the economy tries to achieve higher real incomes and expenditure than the economy can produce.

The remedy, painfully learned world-wide in the 70s and early 80s and irresponsibly forgotten by the British Government in the late 80s, is a period in which unemployment has to be higher than the core or natural rate, so that individual expectations about the real incomes that can be achieved are forced downwards. Unless we are very lucky indeed, we shall continue to see underlying inflation on an upward trend, until the lesson is learned and applied.

Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, is regrettably stating precisely the reverse of the truth in claiming that the latest reduction in unemployment is testimony to the continuing basic strength of the economy (report, April 13). It is an indicator of the Government's continuing failure to get inflation back under control.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
Chart Place,
Chart Sutton,
Maidstone, Kent.
April 13.

Prison staff dilemmas

From Dr J. Aldridge-Goult
Sir, The present disruptions in our prisons, and the terrifying levels of violence which have been manifest, are sad but quite predictable.

Over the years the most senior ranks of the prison service have been seduced into believing that they are senior Civil Servants, who see their careers in terms of the number of hours they spend closeted with the minister protecting him from embarrassment, rather than in practising their trade of running prisons. It would seem that they have taken the Gilbertian advice of "polishing handles so carefully, and never going to sea, that now they are the rulers of the Queen's Navy".

The introduction of "Fresh Start" some three years ago, and the radical restructuring that followed, had the effect of forcing a significant proportion of middle managers into either accepting early retirement, or going along with the new structures. Many accepted early retirement, but those who chose to stay found themselves appointed to newly created non-jobs.

Poll tax disquiet

From Miss R. S. Attack
Sir, Any tax has to come out of production. Edmund Burke seems to have appreciated that the incidence of any form of taxation — i.e., the point at which it is collected from production — has different and important effects. What is more, the science is so exact that a little more or less might be crucial to the functioning of a whole economy.

The poll tax, however, is a levy on existence and in principle is not levied on production. It is a "head" tax and may be imposed upon anybody, whether they have produced anything or not.

Given that nothing can be paid out of nothing, this seems a questionable "principle". In fact, it is no principle at all. It is an unworkable idea. At least the general rates were paid by people who owned their own houses and had probably produced something at some time.

The rationale which we are now supposed to find just and attractive is that we should pay for the services we use — an idea which might appeal to our sense of

justice. It leaves out of sight, however, the essential fact that a lot of these "heads" are unable to pay, even if they find the principle attractive and would like to do so.

Yours sincerely,
ROSEMARY ATTACK,
Flat 1, Farmborough Close,
Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr P. A. Philpot
Sir, As expected I have received my community charge bill (1990-91). In the envelope there were the following:

1. An advertisement from our local theatre for the Mr Men, Postman Pat, Yogi Bear, etc.
2. A leaflet showing where my £450 was going.
3. A bill for £450.
4. A direct debit form.
5. A wall chart containing a year planner (starting from April 1990, ending in 1991) and some local advertisements for, amongst others, a solicitor, a private hospital, a hairdresser, a veterinary surgery, a jewellers and an undertaker.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL A. PHILPOT,
23 Poynes Road,
Horley, Surrey.
April 11.

Legal loophole

From Mr G. V. Bull
Sir, Some time ago the Lord Chancellor prescribed new forms for use in the county courts as from April 2. As it has always been the practice of the county courts to provide forms free to the practitioner my firm wrote to our local county court for (as we are a small practice) 20 of each of the new forms.

An official told me they had only been provided with 50 (presumably each) of the forms themselves.

Could I use the old forms? The answer was "No". I was given a

name and number and telephoned with a request for 20 of each of the forms. I was told they could only send me 100.

We may have cause to start an action at any time, so I decided that, despite the wastage for the country, I had no choice but to ask for the sets of 100 forms.

What has gone wrong? This is a small instance, but it doesn't give one confidence that the legal system is being made cheaper.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. BULL,
Wright and Bull (Solicitors),
4 Bloomsbury Close,
Woburn,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

National Anthem

From Mr Antony Randle
Sir, The Church of England Liturgical Commission would seem to be engaged in a scarcely necessary exercise if it is concerned to remove knavish tricks and politicks from the National Anthem (report, April 9; letters, April 14, 17).

Of 19 different hymnals on my shelves, I find the offending verse in only five (and three of those are different editions of *Hymns Ancient & Modern*), with eight books printing the first and third verses (more or less) as given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for October, 1745, with five giving those verses and additional matter from other sources (mostly from the hymn "God Bless Our Native Land" by W. E. Hickson, a 19th-century boot manufacturer), and with one providing the Official Peace Version approved in 1919 by the Privy Council. This last has met with no more successful acceptance than has any other of

the many attempts to rewrite the National Anthem.

At the conclusion of her Majesty's Coronation service in 1953, two verses of the National Anthem were sung: the two verses printed in the eight books referred to above, beginning with the lines "God save our gracious Queen" and "Thy choicest gifts in store". These are the verses most commonly used.

But for some the words are no matter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1931, Mr Philip Snowden, declared in Parliament that the words did not signify, and that only the tune was the National Anthem.

Composers have been moved to include it in their works: Beethoven, as your leading article remarked (April 11), wrote Vari-

ations upon it — and in his diary noted that he did so "... to show the English what a blessing they have in 'God Save The King'". Brahms, Weber, Rink, Thalberg, Debussy all referred to the anthem in their works, to say nothing of the Variations written by the American composer Ives.

Gordon Jacob wrote for the Coronation service a setting of the National Anthem in four-square harmony, prefaced by a splendid Fanfare, and this I reckon the optimum version available today. It is by far preferable to Elgar's arrangement which is repetitious, too high in pitch, and with its dotted quaver rhythms and staccato notes not a little comic.

The National Anthem, in the Coronation version, is fine. Leave it alone.

Sincerely,
ANTONY RANDLE
(Organist and Director of Music),
Arnold Lodge School,
Kenilworth Road,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Teachers in control of schools

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, You are right to suggest (leading article, April 11) that a far-sighted profession might have been expected to welcome the moves which have been made to transfer the control of schools from town halls to the teachers, actually working with children and young people. Why has there been such an outcry from the ranks of teachers against this hugely laudable development?

The reason is that teachers in the maintained sector of education have until now lived in a protected environment. They have been able to leave major management decisions to politicians and bureaucrats, and blame them when the public has complained about educational standards. It would be altogether astonishing if they were not apprehensive about what lies ahead.

What teachers need just now is some public gesture of confidence in their ability to accept this responsibility, rather than utterances on their behalf questioning the need for change.

The way is clearly open for the Government to make such a gesture. If John MacGregor really believes in handing teachers greater responsibility for the conduct of their affairs, he should allow them to have the General Teaching Council they have been demanding for some time. Were he to do so, it would lift morale at a stroke.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
St James's Court,
77 Frier Gate, Derby.

NHS reforms

From Professor W. H. Barker
Sir, The death of Professor Norman Exton-Smith (obituary, April 5) is an occasion of great sadness and reflection. He is aptly described as one of the pioneers of the now thriving specialty of geriatric medicine, "an essential development within the National Health Service".

In essence, these pioneers, working within the NHS, fashioned models of comprehensive care which link together the community, general hospital and long-stay services needed by older persons — and which have been widely admired and emulated around the world.

As an academic physician from the USA, where the private market model produces highly frag-

mented and inefficient health services for older people, I have studied and written extensively for our "home market" on the virtues of British geriatric medicine.

It is accordingly with great concern that I caution against the current NHS reform proposals which, in the interest of privatizing and marketing medical services, would fragment the remarkable legacy of comprehensive care for older people fashioned by Professor Exton-Smith and his peers. (In brief, don't do it).

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM H. BARKER
(Associate Professor of Gerontology and Community Medicine),
University of Rochester Medical Center,
Box 644,
Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

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WILLIAM H. BARKER
(Associate Professor of Gerontology and Community Medicine),
University of Rochester Medical Center,
Box 644,
Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

Hardback novels

From Mr David Holbrook
Sir, Valerie Grosvenor Myer (April 9) draws attention to a serious crisis in the publishing and distribution of serious fiction, a crisis which is much worse than anyone realises. The public libraries seem to have abandoned their responsibilities in this realm, buying paperbacks and videos which users could surely purchase for themselves, while dropping the purchase of serious hardback fiction.

Thus a novel which would sell 4,000 copies in hardback in 1966, and 2,000 in 1977, today sells only 300 to 500 copies, which is not enough to cover its production costs.

Letters of rejection bewail the publisher's inability to publish, declaring that the manuscript may be "well-written" but "unpublishable in today's frenetic market".

The process is due, of course, to the triumph of television, and the vast altarity of our time — people can read but don't.

Yours etc.
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens,
Cambridge.
April 9.

Body language

From Dr David Stevenson
Sir, Peter Brooks's cartoon of the Prime Minister in the shape of Great Britain (April 11) makes a general point symbolically: her back is resolutely turned to Europe. But all the best symbols are complex, and other messages, intentional or otherwise, are contained in this striking image.

North-east Scotland is out of the back of Mrs Thatcher's head. Five gets it in the neck. The Highlands are awarded a baleful glare, a piercing nose and an open mouth.

Hampshire is uniquely favoured, being blessed with the promise implicit in the cornucopian handbag. It's Londoners I'm really sorry for...

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEVENSON (Director),
Centre of Scottish Studies,
University of Aberdeen,
Taylor Building,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen.
April 12.

Measure for measure

From Mr F. Ellis
Sir, About 10 years ago, a Swedish visitor told me that Swedes were saying that metrication was being introduced in Britain inch by inch.

It still seems to be true. Yours faithfully,
F. ELLIS,
39 Limes Road,
Folkestone, Kent.
April 12.

Top conductors are being signed up fast, but not by the London Philharmonic. Richard Morrison reports

Maestro, a podium awaits



Differing styles: Pierre Boulez (top), analytical exactitude and Gallic intellect; and Mariss Jansons, Latvian-born specialist in subtlety

As games of musical chairs go, the exercise that has occupied the world's leading conductors and orchestras for the last two or three years has proffered onlookers great entertainment. The game usually requires fewer chairs than participants, but a piquant feature of this version was that a large number of vacant chairs chased rather fewer outstanding maestros.

Did the conductors therefore hold all the advantages? Not really. Running the game were more shadowy figures: a handful of record company bosses and agents in Hamburg, Tokyo and New York. Their names are unknown to the average concertgoer, but increasingly they decide who plays what, where, when and for how much.

That is the classical music business, 1990. One might expect the greatest conductors, at least, to control their own destinies, but "business" considerations often seem more pressing. There is a neat symbolism in the fact that Herbert von Karajan was entertaining Japanese business associates on his last day alive.

One by one, the finest European and American orchestras have clawed their way through this Byzantine selection and negotiation process, making appointments which have mostly swept away a durable old guard and brought in younger men. The Berlin Philharmonic did avoid the main "music business" candidates; instead, it made the brilliant choice of Claudio Abbado as Karajan's successor. The Amsterdam Concertgebouw, rather more riskily, opted for the heavy Italianate manner of Riccardo Chailly to succeed Bernard Haitink.

Daniel Barenboim, rebuffed and wounded by the Bastille Opera fiasco in Paris, emerged to accept the challenge of following Sir Georg Solti in Chicago, and in Los Angeles, André Previn's bitter resignation from a reputed \$500,000 music directorship has been followed, to the American musical press's bewilderment, by the appointment of Esa-Pekka Salonen, a 32-year-old Finn. Finally, last week, the New York Philharmonic announced Kurt Masur as Zubin Mehta's successor. That should be a battle worth

watching: a bunch of players whose favourite hobby has been ganging up on their music directors, faced by a shrewd, highly experienced East German who has ruled the Leipzig Gewandhaus with an iron fist for 20 years.

There is, of course, one notable omission from this list. The London Philharmonic has been without a principal conductor longer than any other orchestra mentioned above — since Klaus Tennstedt resigned for health reasons in 1987. Since then it has relied on a strong roster of guest conductors. Now, however, the LPO must choose a music director, and choose quickly. As the South Bank Board has made clear, that is a prerequisite of the LPO being installed as the Festival Hall's resident orchestra in 1992.

Moreover, the new music director will enjoy greater powers than any conductor of a London orchestra has ever had. One should not underestimate the extent to which the LPO has dropped its long-cherished self-governing status to achieve this. He will, in effect, determine the shape of concert life in Britain's premier musical venue for years to come.

The thinking at both the South Bank and the London Philharmonic is that many crucial issues still have to be resolved before a "package" can be laid at the feet of a chosen maestro. For instance, the Arts Council has yet to say whether the LPO's new resident status at the Festival Hall qualifies it for special funding. A lurking possibility that all the London orchestras might be devoted to Greater London Arts for funding must be dispelled: no conductor of any eminence would tolerate being answerable to a body so identified with the "community arts" ethos. The LPO's working pattern (more specifically, its rehearsing pattern) in the Festival Hall also needs to be firmly established.

A residency contract between LPO and South Bank could be signed by September. No one expects a music director announcement before then. Yet there are signs already that venue and orchestra could be at variance on the music director question. The South Bank's artistic director, Nicholas Snowman, primarily sees the residency as an orchestral adventure, high quality if possible.

The LPO's managing director, John Willan, would probably put it the other way round: world-class orchestral quality first; adventurous programming second. Translated into conducting terms, one could call it Pierre Boulez versus Georg Solti.

There are other limiting factors. Some admirable conductors are too heavily identified with other London orchestras, such as the excellent Leonard Slatkin (closely associated with the Philharmonia — which is also looking for a music director to follow Sinopoli) or the 20th-century music specialist Kent Nagano (committed to the LSO). Other fine musicians simply have no "profile" with the London public: Wolfgang Sawallisch is a prime example. Finally there are those, such as Leonard Bernstein or Carlos Kleiber, who produce glorious concerts but have neither the time, temperament or desire to undertake the responsibilities of a music director. Just as well, since London could not afford them.

Still, that leaves many other possibilities. The list below may be exhausting, but is certainly not exhaustive.

Ten names for the South Bank

Bernard Haitink: Aged 61. Would be the perfect candidate: musicians revere him, his repertoire is wide, and his interpretations grow more astonishing each year. Only two snags: the small matter of his being music director at Covent Garden, and his intention (revealed to *The Times* earlier this year) never to hold another permanent orchestral post, after the sad termination of his long Amsterdam association.

Mariss Jansons: Aged 47. His work with the Oslo Philharmonic has revealed him as an orchestral trainer of exquisite subtlety. Latvian-born, Leningrad-trained, as yet no reputation for adventure.

Zubin Mehta: Aged 53. Still has the Israel PO, but has left New York. The London Philharmonic offered him the music directorship in 1988, and were turned down, but the new South Bank residency may change his mind. British critics, however, would give his flashy, none-too-probing interpretations a rough ride.

Riccardo Muti: Aged 48. He has La Scala, Milan, but will relinquish the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1992. His music-making seems to have renounced some of its

former fire in favour of a limousine-like plushness, but his name still packs halls and sells discs.

Seiji Ozawa: Aged 54. Graceful, charismatic, charming and only slightly inscrutable. Ozawa has been in Boston for 17 years; both sides may be restless. Too fine a conductor to languish long without a new tenure.

Simon Rattle: Aged 35. For Britain's finest conductor to come to the helm of the capital's music-making would seem obvious, but Rattle's loyalty to Birmingham has survived many succulent lures already. He could, however, lead

his Birmingham orchestra into its new hall, and still arrive in London for the LPO's residency.

Sir Georg Solti: Aged 77. Becoming music director at the South Bank for a fixed term would undoubtedly fit in with the indefatigable Solti's idea of a peaceful retirement. He might also relish the post as a crowning glory of his contribution to British musical life. His musical clout would certainly set the Festival Hall buzzing.

Franz Welser-Möst: Aged 29. Too inexperienced yet to be a serious contender, perhaps — except that the LPO has kept faith with this gifted Austrian, and his interpretations grow steadily more mature.

Brash display of showmanship

ROCK
David Sinclair
Sonny Sharrock
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE Knitting Factory tour reached London in ragged shape. The six bands, currently touring across Europe under the banner of the tiny New York club where they are all regular performers, are said to represent the mutant form of experimental rock-jazz that is currently to be found at the cutting edge of Manhattan's avant-garde "downtown" scene.

The economics of the operation dictate that there is no road crew

and on some occasions the "luxury" of a hotel room has had to be foregone in favour of overnight journeys on the bus. But on the second night of this South Bank residency, Miracle Room's percussionist Rock Savage collapsed backstage and the group's equipment had to be disassembled without a note having been played.

An earlier set by the Japanese-American group Boshu had been full of mystery and promise, but the hole in the middle of the programme (three acts per show) threw a greater emphasis on headliner Sonny Sharrock than was perhaps intended.

Having recorded in the Sixties with the likes of Don Cherry, Wayne Shorter and Miles Davis, Sharrock has more recently become better known as the guitarist in Bill Laswell's metal jazz agglomerate Last Exit.

Unfortunately, his own band did not, on this occasion, sound as if they were on the cutting edge of anything, as they lumbered through a wodge of one-dimensional riffs with a heavy handedness which one would more readily associate with a Seventies' pub-rock fusion act.

Above all, the sense of mission that this tour supposedly embodies was entirely absent, as so much enviable talent was sacrificed on the altar of brash, misplaced showmanship.



Showman: Sonny Sharrock

seemed to overlay his hand, abandoning melodies in favour of frenetic, disorganized scrawls across the fretboard.

The twin drumming of Lance Carter and Abe Speller was powerful but scrappy and too often wasted on straight four-in-the-bar rock patterns played in unison. Dave Snyder's keyboard playing had a lounge-bar feel to it and bassist Melvin Gibbs ploughed through a fuzz-distorted bass solo of a backneyed nature.

Above all, the sense of mission that this tour supposedly embodies was entirely absent, as so much enviable talent was sacrificed on the altar of brash, misplaced showmanship.

Reign of the orator

Jasper Rees
Mandela Concert
Wembley Stadium

THERE was only one roof-raiser at this gig, and he has never sold an album in 71 years on the planet. Were John Lennon brought back to life and the Beatles reunited, they could count themselves lucky to receive a tenth of the ovation accorded to Nelson Mandela on Monday night at Wembley Stadium.

Some musicians were there too, and, at least in this column, they deserve mention.

The creditable thing about the International Tribute for Nelson Mandela was that, for all its enormous significance and for all the vastness of its worldwide audience, there was the minimum of the rabble-rousing which often mars stadium rock events. The proceedings were summed up when, some way into the show, Ben Elton, one of the compères, whipped the audience into a rock 'n' roll frenzy to introduce Terence Trent D'Arby, who came on to sing a slow chant.

There was a lot of that — songs dedicated to the concert's special guest, full of respect and warmth and earnestness. Rock used to be about rebellion and pumping up the volume, but it grew up a long time ago. In a venue as cavernous

as this, the volume has to be pumped up, but, especially in the show's first half, the emphasis was on quieter sounds.

Lou Reed strummed a couple of songs on his guitar; Tracy Chapman crooned "Let Us All Be Free"; Daniel Lanois plucked out a restrained anthem for Nelson; and a soul consortium of Anita Baker, Natalie Cole, Mica Paris and Bonnie Raitt harmonized "Blowin' in the Wind".

Despite major decibel assaults from Simple Minds, the Neville Brothers, George Duke and his Band and Neneh Cherry, Stetsasonic and the Jungle Brothers, there was little to raise the temperature by more than a degree or two. The night's mood was of dignity rather than passion.

Appropriately, the music that prospered best against Wembley's deafening acoustics was that of Africa, with its crisp choral simplicity and its exaltation of horns over guitars. You would have to pity the singer following Mandela, but if there was anyone to take on the job it was Tracy Chapman, with her sublimely moving "Revolutions Song". Then, it was the turn of Simple Minds, followed by Peter Gabriel, who rounded off the show with his choral ballad, "Biko".

As a result of one night, the dismissive record store categorization, "World Music", finally means something.

Commemorate the Dunkirk spirit with The Times 50th Anniversary Tour.

1990 is the fiftieth anniversary of the "Miracle of Dunkirk". To celebrate, readers of *The Times* are invited to join a unique two day tour, in the company of Col 'Pat' Porteous VC, who was evacuated at Dunkirk.

It will be an unforgettable occasion. Literally thousands of Dunkirk veterans will be returning to parade in the town to pay their respects to those comrades who did not return.

The RAF will pay their tribute in a dramatic Fly Past, a wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Dunkirk Cenotaph and a Ceremony of Remembrance will be held at The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing.

The highlight of the commemorations will undoubtedly be the sight of a flotilla of 60-70 survivors of "The Little Ships".

The tour will leave London from Victoria by coach on Saturday May 26th at 10.30am, arriving Dover at 12.30pm (you may join the tour either at London or Dover). You will then travel from Calais by coach to the well appointed Mercure Hotel, Lille. After dinner you can look forward to a fascinating talk by Col 'Pat' Porteous VC.

If you would like to take part in this historic event, simply fill in the coupon below, and send with your remittance to: Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours Ltd., 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9DA.

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The closing date is Friday, April 27, and numbers are limited to the first 200 applicants.

THE TIMES

Festival that dares to speak its name

David Robinson reports on a festival of films with homosexual themes, in Turin

It is a matter of civic pride for every major Italian town to have its own film festival. Turin, as befits its cultural standing, has three: a youth film festival, a sports film festival and — unique in continental Europe — a festival of films concerned with homosexuality. The fifth homosexual film festival, just ended, had the provocative slogan "De Sodoma a Hollywood", and a cheeky logo showing Charlie Chaplin flirting with an unresponsive Frankenstein monster.

The festival shows how considerable the annual production of films reflecting homosexual issues or sensibilities is. This year Turin found more than 30 titles (including shorts), in addition to retrospectives of the work of Derek Jarman and silent films about homosexuality.

A new phenomenon is the acceptance of homosexuality as a theme for film-makers in Eastern Europe, where for 40 years socialist regimes dismissed the subject as decadent. *Coming Out*, by East German Heiner Carow has already won the Silver Award at the Berlin Film Festival. Its premiere was on the day that the Berlin Wall was breached, and its writer, Wolfgang Witte, sees it as a reflection of the problems facing the new Europe. "To find oneself, to accept the contradictions of one's own being, implies a great assumption of responsibility."

By Western standards, the content is not new, but the film is made with professional confidence, as a mainstream commercial film, and has broken box-office records in Germany. It is the story of a young teacher whose ambivalent sexual feelings surface, resulting in the disruption of

his stable heterosexual relationship. It is an honest, generous film, which observes the conflicting love affairs with sympathy, and resists the temptation of a neat last-reel solution.

A special fascination of the film is that some scenes are clearly shot in authentic gay locales; and there is a touching encounter with a real-life character, an aged homosexual who recalls the Nazi period when he and his friends ended up in concentration camps, and the communist era that followed and brought no greater tolerance. Another German film, Richard Oswald's *Anders als die Anderen* (*Different from the Others*), made 70 years ago, has a similar documentary fascination. It is said that a film of 1990 has to make the same plea for tolerance as one made in 1919. Conrad Veidt (best remembered as the German officer in *Casablanca*) plays a homosexual musician who falls victim to a blackmailster. When the case comes to court, the blackmailster is hardly punished but his accuser is so disgraced that he commits suicide.

The film gives unusual insights into gay life in the first days of the Weimar Republic. We glimpse cafes where men dance with men, and women in double-breasted suits, ties and trilby hats flirt with girls. The hero's home has a Wildean decadence of cushions, flowers and silk dressing-gowns.

The pioneer sexologist, Dr Magnus Hirschfeld, appears in person in the film to expound his theories on sexual tolerance and legal reform.

Commercial films of the silent era attempted sophisticated themes. In 1928 Wilhelm Dieterle



Documentary fascination: *Anders als die Anderen*, 1920

directed and acted in *Geschlecht in Fesseln* (*Sex in Chains*), an attack on the prison system which relates the tragedy of a prisoner who falls in love with a fellow-inmate, while his wife falls in love with her boss.

Contemporary British films were much in evidence. Turin honoured Derek Jarman with a complete retrospective, a book surveying his achievement and a special award for his work. Surprisingly, he has now made some 50 films, including shorts and videos, and a new film, *The Garden*, which is due soon.

Jarman's influence is evident in the baroque visual adventures of a

young Greek, Constantine Giannaris, whose credits include *Jean Genet is Dead* and *Troyens*, which was co-produced by the Arts Council and the Greek Film Centre, and celebrates the life and poetry of Constantine Cavafy.

A more characteristically British approach is evident in the naturalism and irony — something between Ealing Comedy and *Brief Encounter* — of Richard Kwietniowski's *Flames of Passion*. Co-produced by the British Film Institute and Channel Four, it is a poker-faced recital of the erotic daydreams of a strait-laced commuter.

Being perfectly Frank

Joseph Connolly talks to writer and broadcaster Frank Muir about his latest book project, *The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose*, and the demise of the television show *Call My Bluff*

Frank Muir is enjoying life hugely. Just turned 70, he has launched his new *Oxford Book of Humorous Prose* in New York, and is now squaring up gamely to a rigorous schedule of speeches, lunches, chat shows and book signings here.

The book bears a subtitle: "A Conducted Tour by Frank Muir". He seems the ideal choice to pilot readers through this gorgeously fertile territory with a casually proffered erudition and a generous wit.

It is a massive and enlightening anthology. More to the point, it is fun. The material is all drawn from English-language writers — it was the English, as Muir makes clear in the sparkling introduction, who invented humorous prose — and the nuggets range from the printer William Caxton (admittedly not a cove one would cleave to if a rollicking good time were the order of the day) chronologically and beguilingly onward into the Master, P.G. Wodehouse. Muir has been thorough: the book was 17 years in the making.

"When I started, I simply sat

empty folder to hand, and I thought, 'Ah! I shall use this empty folder'. The first job was to amass — all the stuff one must use, and then all the things one might use. I was not put off famous bits because everyone knows them so well. That is a measure of how good they are. Then there was all the business of little paper slips and photocopying, but one thing leads to another — after a while you sort of know."

As one potters through the book, one cannot help noticing that the ruder bits become, well, rather ruder. How did Muir view this development? "Well, actually," he says, "I'm very squeamish about this sort of thing — I don't really like it, but it is a development and an enormously important one."

"A few surprises were thrown up here — it was extraordinary how compassionate Leslie Thomas could be when actually being rather rude. And wasn't it good that the bit from Martin Amis's *The Rachel Papers* was so like Adrian Mole?"

Although Frank Muir is a consummate book man, it is more for his television work that he is

nationally famous. I told him that I could never see a certain sickly chocolate product without hearing his voice gurgling lusciously about it.

This seemed to please him inordinately. "I really enjoy all the adverts. It's easy to do. It pays. I need money to subsidize the sort of books I choose to do."

Candour is too small a word for this, but it is very much a part of being Frank. "But I'm choosy," he insists — at once recalling a cat food voice-over of long ago. "I was asked to do Odor-Eaters — you know, those things you put in your socks — but I didn't really want to. Bit much. And I turned down an offer from Perrier to launch their new production: I think they wanted to buy integrity."

And what of *Call My Bluff*? "I think the BBC has chopped it," is the alarming reply. "I discussed it with young Yestob and said 'let's get it back to what it really is: a foggy programme'. But nothing has come of it."

"They are using Arthur Marshall's death as an excuse, I think. I wanted Joanna Lumley to take his place — she's so terribly good at it."

Muir will probably be popping up on chat shows soon. "But of course they're not chat shows because nobody chats. And some of them will do anything to avoid mentioning your book when it is obvious that that is why you are there. Denis Norden was telling me that sometimes not only does a researcher fax you the questions, but then they fax you the answers: this enables the host to insert his practised little half-quips."

So, then, whether Frank Muir? Could he be described as bereft, now that his time is about to be the classic bookshops in encouragingly healthy numbers? "Bereft?" he muses, in a voice that sounds bereft rather in the way that a London double-decker bus strikes the eye as being a pleasing shade of duck-egg blue.

Then he goes on: "I have given it some thought — not a great deal of thought, but a little thought. I simply feel like a mastodon who has given birth to her calf, and is disinclined to have another, just yet."

● The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose, edited by Frank Muir, is published by OUP on April 26, £17.95.

Placebo or remedy?

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

THE flying doctor has at last found himself a hospital. Sir John Harvey-Jones, peripatetic management counsellor extraordinaire and star of *Troubleshooter* (BBC 2), landed last night on the Shropshire Health Authority, where they have a waiting list of 8,000, are overspending on an £80 million budget, and have to close at least three medical centres.

Sir John, followed by his ever-faithful camera crew, goes around like a killer panda, simultaneously cuddly and lethal. On brisk tours of the bedridden, he inquires after their health much in the gruff fashion of the late James Robertson Justice. The implication is that life would be easier if they would just pick up their beds and walk, thereby solving the hospital's overcrowding problems.

Like Lucinda Lambton, Sir John is proving a natural television star for the 1990s because of his breathtaking habit of saying to the camera the first thing that comes into his head. "This is the Nightingale Ward," he told us of one particularly derelict hospital. "And by the look of it, Florence is still working here." An industrial fixer trying to quantify the costs of health on a limited budget, Sir John zooms around in his Volvo Estate like a travelling witch-doctor. He bestows on his bewildered clients advice that they seem largely unenthusiastic about having to accept.

Trying to apply Thatcherite principles of self-reliance to unwieldy old hospitals with 8,000 people waiting for beds proved a tough challenge even for Harvey-Jones, who finally saw the local health chairman off the premises without many of their problems being solved. He is, in the end, able to diagnose the illness but unable to supply a cure.

Earlier on BBC 2, *Army Lives* continued to survey the weird social structures of one of the last enclosed and self-perpetuating tribes of modern Britain. Without a major war to fight, officers and men are now principally engaged on such home-front battles as boxing matches and minor infringements of discipline, while their wives agonize over the dinner parties and who is to be allowed above the salt.

Nobody expects there to be whole communities of accountants' wives or engine-drivers' wives, so quite why soldiers' wives see themselves as having to belong to a platoon of their own is unclear. If the opportunities are there, the sooner they all go out and find jobs unconnected to the military occupation of their husbands, the easier their lives are likely to become.

Doubleless Sir John would have some equally ready advice. That is another great thing about television: freedom to interfere in the lives of others and no need to live with the consequences.

Overture and beginners, please, just one more time

ANDREW BOURNE

HAVING packed up their troubles in an old kit bag, and followed the van without knowing where to go, the dear old pals, jolly old pals, are back. Underneath the arches.

They do, however, have a new home. The Players' Theatre Company has overcome the bulldozer and, last winter, an apparently blank future. Tonight, with an entertainment called *Late Joys*, it inaugurates the West End's first purpose-built theatre for 27 years.

The Players' is devoted not to new drama, nor to massive musicals, but to the preservation of the material and ethos of the Victorian and Edwardian music-halls. In 1987, it was forced to move out of its Villiers Street home, under the arches of Charing Cross railway station — but on the understanding that Greycoat, developers of the huge site, would build the company a comparable theatre as near to the old one as possible. The new place is tucked into what was Craven Passage, now simply The Arches.

The new 250-seat Players' Theatre has the essential ingredients of the old: the walls are pink, as were those of the old theatre; there is a bar, 19th-century style, at the back of the theatre, and generous boxes on either side of the diminutive stage. But the brass is plainly 1990s, the carpeting has a modern look, and the V.I.P.s in the "Royal Box" will be the wheelchair audience, able to drive

Simon Tait traces the peregrinations of the Players' Theatre Club, opening its new theatre tonight

themselves in straight from the street on the same level.

"We're dedicated to the 19th-century tradition, which we consider the best and from which there is an endless supply of material," said Reginald Woolley, who, as a printer-turned-designer, was taken on before the last war by the co-founder of the Players', Leonard Sachs (later the famously alliterative chairman of BBC TV's *The Good Old Days*). Now 77, Woolley is one of three directors of the company.

The title of his new show, *Late Joys*, co-directed with Geoffrey Brawn (the Players' musical director), pays homage to the company's first manifestation. In the early 19th century, a comedian called Evans acquired an hotel in King Street, Covent Garden, from a Mr Joy, and turned it into London's first Song and Supper Room. For years it was known as "Evans's... Late Joys". It became "The Players" early this century, and in 1937 Sachs, with Peter Ridgway, formed The Players' Theatre Club, the aim of which was to revive Victorian

entertainment. The club spent the war in the premises of the notorious El Morocco club in Albemarle Street, and moved to the derelict Villiers Street site in 1946.

Like the Windmill, The Players' launched a legion of talented entertainers, from Peter Ustinov and Bernard Miles to Eleanor Summerfield (whom Sachs married), Clive Dunn, Harrie Jacques, even Elisabeth Welch and Prunella Scales.

Variety was not the club's only meat. It delivered many new musicals to the West End, most of them now forgotten, but successful in their day: *The Crooked Mile*, *House of Cards*, *Divorce Me Darling* and Woolley's own *Jack The Ripper*.

Oddly, the best remembered was initially a flop, commissioned from a young playwright called Sandy Wilson in the early Fifties. Sachs had asked for a Victorian theme, Wilson came back and said he couldn't manage that, but would the Twenties do? Sachs agreed, paid £25, and got *The Boyfriend*. Unfortunately for Sachs, £25 had not bought him the copyright, so the work's long West End run made Wilson's fortune but not the Players'.

While its new home was being built yards from the old, the Players' went to the Duchess Theatre in the Aldwych. Last winter, the company found that its lease had run out, and that it had been squatting. It had to store its equipment, props and vast library



Old style, new technology: the interior of the Players' Theatre Club, beneath Charing Cross Station

of old songs and comedy material, burlesque pantomimes and ancient melodramas in various parts of London. "There were times when we thought we'd reached the end," said Woolley.

The club is dependent on its membership, which shrank by 20 per cent after 1987 to 4,000. But the new Players' should be able to attract new audiences. The theatre now has a restaurant, a bar in the

foyer and a licence which allows it to operate from 11am to 3am.

There is to be the revival of an old West End tradition: the supper party. At 11.30pm, after the other shows have closed, there will be special performances by stars of other West End shows, the first being given by yet another of The Players' dear old pals, Sheila Steafel.

One senses that the likes of Miss

Steafel will enjoy themselves here as they have not for years in the bigger houses. But while they will be entertaining themselves, the target for their joyous performances will be, as the chairman will undoubtedly declare *ad nauseam*, "chiefly yourselves".

● The Players' Theatre Club is at The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 (01-839 1134).

Steve Turner meets Mano Negra, a wild but atypical rock group

No money thanks, we're French

Joe Strummer, Herb Alpert, Gary Glitter, The Stray Cats, Lonnie Donegan, Chaba Fadda, The Ventures, Run DMC. These were the names I scrawled on a piece of paper in the sweaty darkness of a Pigalle club to remind me of the swirl of influences that make up Mano Negra, France's leading indie group of the 1990s.

"Influence" is an inaccurate word. Mano Negra, who work at the confluence of rockabilly, world music, hip-hop and punk, shamelessly steal. But they do it with irresistible panache.

The show was a relentless two-hour assault. It began with a 57-second instrumental and ended with a version of "Rock Island Line" that effortlessly plied from the skiffle original into rap, demonstrating the continuity behind all do-it-yourself youth culture music.

Mano, Chao, the 28-year-old leader of the group, catered the stage with a guitar, hooded jacket and headband, and left stripped to the waist and glistening with sweat, having hurled himself into the audience, who bounced him around on their upturned hands.

During the afternoon sound check, at which followers of the group cycled through the empty hall and played soccer in front of the mixing desk, he discussed the origins of the music they call "pachanka".

"I was tired of having to choose every time I joined a band," he explained. "So I said, 'I'm going to make a band where we can do anything we want and we won't have to choose.' To me all music is the same. You can find the same spirit in salsa, in rap as in reggae. What could possibly be the problem in mixing them?"

No problem at all if you have the cheek of Mano Negra and treat it with the glee of a child mixing paints. *Pachka's Fever*, their recent Virgin album, has songs in French, Arabic, English and Spanish, almost all of which are less than three minutes long.

"I'm a thief," said Chao. "If I like something, I take it. Then I go to market."

Half of the group's eight members were discovered busking on the Paris Métro and are of French or Moroccan extraction. The other half are related to Mano Chao's Spanish family and grew up in the industrial suburb of Pont de Sévres.

The first music Chao and his contemporaries were exposed to was flamenco and salsa. Later, as



Bubbling under? Mano Negra share suitably wacky transport

teenagers, they played the rock 'n' roll of Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran in French rockabilly bands, dropping the odd Spanish tune into the set. Punks were their deadly enemies until they heard The Clash and realized that the spirit of this music was similar to that of rockabilly.

From punk, Mano Negra also absorbed the ethic of self-determination. Their contract with Virgin Records gives the group total control over the music as well as its promotion and packaging. In France they have already confused radio programmers by issuing a new single every month to avoid saturation airplay. This plan was hatched when an earlier single, "Mala Vida" made an unwelcome appearance in the pop charts.

"We don't want them," said Chao, on the subject of hit singles. "After that it wasn't Mano Negra, it was 'Mala Vida'." All the people saw us on television and we were associated with just one song. We don't want to push just one song. We are a special band. We can't be summarized in one song."

Their tours are similarly unconventional. Last year they played Peru and Ecuador knowing that bootlegging in these countries effectively makes commercial record releases impossible. But they wanted to face the challenge of an unpromised audience.

"The concerts were really great," said Chao. "People didn't know a thing about us, and had to invent everything. Within three songs the audience had invented the popo!"

Chao believes that France's slender contribution to the history of rock can be explained by the lack of decent small venues. When there is nowhere to play, there is no incentive to form a band. The bigger concert halls tend to host visiting British or American acts. "That's why we started working with the alternative movement in France. Because there was nothing we decided we could do everything: make our own record companies and open places up."

They have just been to play in New York, Austin and Los Angeles. A short tour of Russia is on the cards, and *Pachka's Fever* has now sold over 200,000 copies.

"This is great for a rock band in this country," said Chao. "We hadn't seen anything like it in years. The first album, *Pachanka*, sold over 150,000. We don't need any more money. We now have quite enough to live on."

Mano Negra succeeds in its fusion of rockabilly and rap, reggae and salsa, skiffle and punk, because it is done out of creative necessity rather than according to a grand plan.

As Chao puts it: "I think Mano Negra is a generous band. I wouldn't say that we are good musicians, but we are generous. The power we have got is our communication with the crowd. We give everything we have to give — every night."

● Mano Negra play the Town & Country Club, Kenilworth Town, London NW5 (01-284 0303) tomorrow night.

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PARENTS

Bringing up a boy wonder

What do you do when your 13-year-old son starts asking questions about hyperspace and the randomness of the universe?

Alexandra King looks at the burdens and bonuses of raising a gifted child

Stuart McDonald startled his parents by reading the newspaper to them when he was three. But it was the endless stream of questions which really alerted Terry and Wendy McDonald to their child's extraordinary intelligence. "I used to brace myself when I'd hear him coming," Mrs McDonald says. "It was never 'Hello, mum', it was always a torrent of questions so that, by the time he got to you, you didn't know which one to start with. Or it would be, 'Mum, I've just had this idea'."

Stuart, aged 13, can laugh at this now — along with his father, a panel-beater, mother and 23-year-old brother, Jamie, who has been known to demand: "Doesn't he have an 'off' switch?" Fortunately he has a sense of humour, which acts as an antidote to the intensity of his intellect. "We share the same offbeat sense of humour, which I exploit to the full because he can become so bogged down in such serious thoughts that we have to lighten him very quickly," his mother says.

Stuart has rarely slept more than four to five hours a night and is invariably the last member of the family to go to sleep. His electronic typewriter clacks away into the small hours, creating a new language or an imaginary world for one of the intricate, role-playing games he delights in devising. "Sometimes I don't think about anything and it's that that keeps me awake," he says. He is becomingly modest about his many talents. Asked whether he made the impressive model ship on his bedroom shelf, he says self-deprecatingly: "Oh, but I didn't design it or anything." If he is commended on his phenomenal sharp memory — he can recall things that happened before he was a year old — he says: "But it's not photographic."

Stuart has the potential to become another highly publicized prodigy like Ruth Lawrence, but both he and his parents are determined that he should lead a "normal" life for a boy of his age for as long as possible. He attends his local comprehensive school and his lessons are supplemented by tutorial sessions with a doctor of mathematics at Southampton University. The after-school sessions were arranged after consultation with the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children and are undoubtedly the high spot of his week.

"I would have thought going to university when you're only 13 would be pretty intimidating, but Stuart doesn't find it so," Mrs McDonald says. "I think it's helped him in all sorts of ways, not just by firing his interest in maths, but in boosting his self-confidence." "As parents of a child like Stuart you're very much in the dark. You do your best — like bringing up any child, I suppose. But there have been times when I've felt inadequate, and I have had to say 'I don't know the answer to your question, but I'll help you find out.'"

That has not deterred her from sitting at Stuart's side as he tinkers with the Archimedes computer he brings home from school each weekend and holiday. His own small home computer lies gather-

ing dust, like the bicycle bought for his seventh birthday which he has never used. She makes an effort to respond to his speculations on hyperspace and the randomness of the universe rather than switching off because she cannot really comprehend them.

"I wouldn't want to come across as a paragon of a parent," Mrs McDonald says. "There's always been something about Stuart that you could not ignore. It would have been very cruel to ignore his questions, and he's always had the knack of asking the right ones."

Stuart learned about "the birds and the bees", from prostitution to homosexuality, when he was seven, she says, during a school project on the Second World War. "He asked me why the soldiers had headed for a certain district, so I explained to him, which naturally led into an interest in sex. He was absolutely fascinated, and it was so easy to tell him. You weren't talking to a child, you were talking to an adult who didn't happen to know those facts."

These days, she confesses, "we are more likely to learn from Stuart. As we have our evening meal he'll start talking about astrophysics and the theory of time running backwards and I become so engrossed I just sit there, fascinated. And he's never condescending. He never says you're wrong, he just very politely explains. I think Stuart was always terribly worried that he would come across as big-headed, and he's perhaps gone a little too far the other way."

Stuart is an especially sensitive child, his mother believes. "You have to handle him extremely carefully. Not so much now, because he's emotionally maturing, but when he's had very bad patches — like when he changes schools — it is absolutely awful for him — it takes him so long to settle down."

One vital weekly ritual is Stuart's weekend walk with his father. "Every weekend he and his Dad go off for a two- or three-hour walk," Mrs McDonald says. "They take the dog and plod all over the countryside so they can, in Stuart's words, 'discuss life, the universe and everything'. Because he's with me such a lot he needs his Dad's influence too — and I do like to have a couple of times free from the questions."

Without attempting to "hothouse" their exceptional son or live through him, the McDonalds have managed to feed his insatiable curiosity.

"We've just listened to him, and answered his questions," Mrs McDonald says. "I don't think I've ever bought something deliberately as a stimulus — except a chess set, which one teacher recommended."

His next bedroom is filled with books on astronomy and favourite works of science fiction such as Douglas Adams's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. There is a television in the corner, plus a telephone and an electric typewriter, but little evidence of the hurly-burly of the average boy's room. His mother insists the neatness is not of her making. "I wouldn't be allowed to touch anything in here," she says.

While he likes "good escapism" science fiction films like *Back to*



Family affair: "We are more likely to learn from him," Mrs McDonald says of Stuart

The Future, just like other boys his age, Stuart adds the disclaimer that "as far as I can work out, it's impossible to change the future by going into the past."

Does he see himself as a future time — or space — traveller? "Not really," Stuart says, and displaying a precocious sense of self-preservation. "I'd rather wait until it's all safe." He says he does not climb trees "because I can't quite understand why people like to do things that are slightly dangerous. And anyway, it makes me feel embarrassed about being descended from an ape."

Although he says he enjoys his schoolwork, he likes to finish his homework as swiftly as possible to be free for the more challenging projects he sets himself — and he seems a relentless taskmaster. "The details he's gone into with his role-playing games is amazing," Mrs McDonald says. "There are pages and pages of character sheets and floor plans."

Stuart's parents say they have never seen him bored. "He just can't wait to get to his room and begin working on the next project," Mrs McDonald says.

Unlike other children who strive to live up to the expectations of their parents and teachers, Stuart has so far exceeded them that his drive to greater accomplishments can only spring from within and only he can

'I can't quite understand why people like to do things that are slightly dangerous'

evaluate them. He says he just does things "because they interest me," and takes a lively interest in almost everything, from French and German to drama and craft, design and technology.

The only areas in which Stuart is less than good are sport, which he shuns, and making friends with children his own age. "They just don't have many activities in common," Mrs McDonald says. "He's recently started having some friends over on a Saturday for role-playing games, which they all like, but generally the other children are interested in playing computer games, whereas Stuart likes to design the programs."

His mother is keenly aware of the isolation which often surrounds a gifted child and, although Stuart listens with impeccable politeness to the conversation of

others going on around him, his eyes will often glaze over as if he is in a little world of his own, participating in a different — and much more demanding — conversation inside his own head.

Stuart had his IQ tested at school, and his parents were told it "went off the scale, whatever that means," his mother remembers. "But people have said to me IQ tests can mean a lot or nothing at all, so I don't set much store by them."

Stuart says he is "not really sure" yet what he would like to do when his physical age catches up more with his mental one. "I'd like a career in astrophysics, I think. The ultimate dream is to predict the future."

In the meantime, he is content with "finishing things off and seeing that they work well. That is what excites me. Finishing a project, like a board-game or a role-playing game. I know it's probably impossible, but it's my dream that eventually we'll be able to work out everything that will ever happen in the universe so that we can even calculate human behaviour. But to calculate it we'd need a computer with a separate piece of memory for every atom in the universe and that would require a computer bigger than the universe."

"My car couldn't carry that," jokes his mother.

Rich gifts with a high price

Are early achievers doomed to be weakly swots, or can they lead a normal life?

Child prodigies provoke a curious mixture of envy, fascination, disbelief and dislike. They are often bullied by, or isolated from, their peers, the subject of much publicity, and disparaged by the parents of more ordinary children, who console themselves and their unexceptional offspring with dark mutterings about "early burnout" and unhappy, abnormal lives.

Two books to be published this month, however, dispel many of the unpleasant myths about early achievers. They should help the parents of exceptional children to see that abundance of talent is a gift — and what can be done to develop it. There are lessons for all parents.

The authors — Professor John Radford, an eminent psychologist who has written *Child Prodigies and Exceptional Early Achievers* (Harvester/Wheatsheaf, £9.95) and Mr Victor Serebriakoff, founder and chairman of the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children, who has produced *Education of the Intelligent Child* (Mensa Publications, £7.95) — have independently reached the conclusion that prodigies are not doomed to be freaks in the sideshow of life.

There is the story of William Sidis, who read at the age of three, knew Russian, French and German at five and was admitted to Harvard University at 11 (where he gave a startlingly original lecture on the fourth dimension), yet died destitute and unemployed.

Professor Radford says this "appeared to exemplify proverbial wisdom, such as 'Early ripe, early rot', but it is, in fact... quite atypical". He is convinced Sidis's circumstances were "a combination of emotional starvation and parental exploitation, exacerbated by continual hostile publicity. Neither his original talents nor even his education, as such, produced the unhappy life".

Professor Radford maintains that most bright children lead lives that fulfil their promise. Both he and Mr Serebriakoff support the findings of the American psychologist Lewis Terman in the early part of this century "which seemed conclusively to disprove traditional notions of the bright child as being below-average in other ways — the weakly, introverted swot".

The two authors also come down firmly on the side of an "elitist" educational system which recognizes that all children are not equal in ability and makes provision for those with special gifts to be educated separately — just like those with special remedial needs. "We should aim for equality of opportunity, not of achievement," Professor Radford says. He condemns the new National Curriculum for encouraging the mediocrity of mass equality.

Both authors warn of the dangers of bright children becoming bored and frustrated in classes that are not geared towards teaching them. They may be turned off education completely, depriving Britain of the talents it needs for the future, Mr Serebriakoff says. He sees no harm in teaching widely disparate ages together, as long as mental abilities are synchronized. "Mankind has always learned in mixed age groups in tribal situations," he says. "Cramming off is made to sound a dangerous phrase," Mr Serebriakoff says, "but why don't they think the same of people who

are 'creamed off' into football or music?"

The highly intelligent child has the potential to be as good at football as he is at physics — if he applies himself to it, the two experts insist. (But often his mind is occupied elsewhere and the child who is grappling with the theories of the universe may not find the time to ride a bicycle or try out for the football team.)

Gifted children can only be "enabled — not pushed", as Professor Radford puts it. "You can probably make an idiot out of a genius," Mr Serebriakoff says, "but you simply cannot make a genius of an idiot."

Studies of child prodigies have shown that a large proportion of them were first-born or only children — or in some other "special" position in the family, perhaps a late last child, which indicates that parental attention is probably significant. Talent does tend to run in families, although there will usually be only one prodigy, Professor Radford notes, citing the Bach family with its 60 musical members, some 20 of them eminent, but only one with the genius of Johann Sebastian. (Ruth Lawrence's younger sister Rebecca has just passed her maths A level a year early, but Miss Lawrence, a research fellow at Harvard University in the United States, had her A level at 10 and a first-class honours degree by 13.)

Attempting to breed a particularly bright child is as futile as it is foolish, Professor Radford says. "Shaw famously pointed out to a lady who wished him to father her child, thus endowing it with her beauty and his brains, that the result might be just the opposite."

Due to a phenomenon known as "regression to the mean", nature's way of dividing her gifts fairly among families means that two bright parents are capable of producing a dull child, while two with below-average IQs are perfectly capable of spawning a potential genius. (Mr Serebriakoff is working on his first novel — a "nightmare" about experiments in genetic engineering to create a super-intelligent race.)

Neither Professor Radford nor Mr Serebriakoff sees any harm in children getting their kicks from pure mathematics. Professor Radford commented in an article in *The Times* in 1988 about John Adams, the boy who passed his A levels aged nine, but who "would much rather be out playing... or watching children's programmes... than debating the theory of relativity", that: "It is not really clear why happiness cannot be found in discussing the theory of relativity."

Mr Serebriakoff concedes that "some of the mathematical skills may isolate children from the world" and that a child may understand the fourth dimension while being socially inept and emotionally immature.

Both men, however, feel strongly that celebrating the differences between children is much healthier than forcing them all to conform to some theoretical "norm" and that some degree of eccentricity may be a characteristic of the exceptional in all fields.

There is no justification for a parent to push a child outside to play when he or she would rather be conversing with his computer or making up an imaginary language.

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Behaving badly

THE Red House, Britain's largest children's book club, has discovered that *Bad Behaviour*, a book by the child psychologist Dr John Pearce (Thorsons, £1.99) advising parents on how to deal with rudeness and swearing, destructiveness, stealing, lying and truancy, is top of the list with its 200,000 member families. Each month the club attempts to analyse social trends through the buying patterns of its members, who can choose from travel guides and activity books, parenting manuals, fantasy tales, children's literature, tapes and dictionaries. Despite being the best-seller, *Bad Behaviour* is not listed in the April catalogue, but it can still be ordered. "We like to change our selection frequently," a spokeswoman says. Details from Red House, Witney, Oxfordshire OX3 5YF.

Taking heart

Teenagers are not too young to start taking positive steps to protect their hearts, and even younger children have been found to have high cholesterol levels. "High Energy", a British Heart Foundation

newsletter for teenagers, gives information on how regular exercise makes the heart stronger, and offers a pulse test and advice on how to get the most out of exercise. Gary Lineker, a player with Tottenham Hotspur, urges children to look out for Jump Rope for Heart, which should have schools all over Britain skipping, and even pop star Jason Donovan, who claims to start most days with a jog, spreads the fitness message to teens. The leaflet is distributed free to schools, on teachers' application, and copies are available when you send a s.a.c. to: Teenage Newsletter, Distribution Department, British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

Lessons in life

Life Education Centres have been in existence for 10 years and their work is gaining increasing recognition. There are 85 classrooms around the world, disseminating a preventive approach intended to warn children of the dangers of drugs. Children as young as five are taught about their bodies and are motivated in a manner which "not only steers them away from drug use but also away from intolerance of others and away from child abuse", says Dr June Patterson-Brown, chief commissioner of the Girl Guides. Life Education Centres are looking for fund-raising volunteers, particularly in London. Contact the Life Education Centre's UK Foundation, PO Box 137, London N10 3JF (010 267 2516).

Victoria McKee

TOMORROW
Don't go near the water... How to survive a seaside holiday without sewage sickness: a guide to the beaches not to visit this summer

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ENVIRONMENT

Breeds that could die with a creed

Libby Henson is scarcely a political animal, but she is worried by the tide of economic revolution in Eastern Europe. Rare breeds of farm animals which have been preserved by primitive agricultural systems are in danger of being wiped out by modernization, she fears.

"Many countries still have distinct breeds fulfilling their traditional roles," she says. "As economic and political compromises are made, there is a real risk of losing them."

Ms Henson is no sentimentalist: she bristles with qualifications which make her, at the age of 32, one of our most respected authorities on rare breeds.

She is co-opted regularly to advise the United Nations and other bodies and her work takes her all over the world. Five years ago, she made the first census of rare breeds in North America and she is due to return to the United States this summer for an update, having established the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, based in North Carolina. "We identified more than 20 distinct rare breeds on the first census, many more than I expected," she says. "I believe we may still find others."

The lure of similar opportunities to comb Eastern Europe for rare breeds at once excites her but raises her apprehensions. She worries that in a stampede for change, precious rare breeds could vanish, and warns: "Once they're gone, they're gone forever."

Her fears are particularly for the future of rare breeds in Hungary — not so much because that country has been irresponsible in its approach, but because previous governments allocated large sums to the cause. "Now national conservation programmes will have to justify themselves in a market economy and may well be sacrificed," she says. She is evangelical about the need to preserve Hungary's traditional grazing grounds — the *pusta* — home to grey steppe cattle, Racka sheep and Mangalitsa pigs. She adds: "Grasses that sustain these breeds produce exactly the right seeds for different birds, and so there is an entire chain of interdependency. Grazing is an essential part of the ecological balance."

One of Hungary's leading

The decline of communism is a threat to animals which survived only because of backward farming techniques.

Sandy Bisp reports on a British woman who is helping to find a solution

authorities on rare breeds, Professor Imra Boda, will be in Britain in June for a conference in Edinburgh on genetics. He will take the opportunity to study Ms Henson's home ground, the Cotswold Farm Park, with a view to establishing a similar scheme near Budapest.

The farm park was co-founded by Libby's father, Joe Henson, the son of the actor Leslie Henson. It is a shop window for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, which was founded 20 years ago. The first of this year's 100,000 visitors are now able to see rare sheep breeds lambing.

The Jacob is a particular success story, its black and white spotted wool easily available at craft shops. Not long ago, however, its numbers were down to a disturbingly low level. Other rare animals include the only six-strong working team of English longhorn oxen in the country.

Ms Henson's father decided during an adolescence in London that he wanted to become a farmer and later he teamed up with a schoolfriend, John Neave, who is still his partner.

He became fascinated by rare breeds and one of his earliest successes on behalf of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, which he also helped establish, was to acquire an Orkney island as home to threatened seaweed-eating sheep.

Libby Henson, the oldest of four children, was constantly at her father's heels, and her interest in animals led her to a first degree in zoology from Oxford and a masters in animal breeding at Edinburgh.

As she pursued her studies, breeds were being snatched from the brink of extinction at the farm park near Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire. Today, Gloucester cattle, Norfolk Horned sheep and Bagot goats are among the rarest of the 30 breeds with which it is involved.

Ms Henson knows the

heartache of being too late to save a breed. The last Lincolnshire Curly Coat pigs were slaughtered in the 1970s — after the farm park was established, but before members of rare breed associations were sufficiently widespread to offer lessons on how to counter similar threats in Eastern Europe, she believes.

It is likely to be in the country whose sufferings have been most manifest, Romania, where rare breeds may have their best chance of survival. "Their backward agricultural methods indicate a prevalence of old breeds," Ms Henson says.

Her concern extends to Third World projects and she

has just agreed to write a manual for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in an attempt to help save working breeds.

She disabuses anyone tempted to suppose rare breeds conservation is an esoteric pursuit with little practical application. Such animals, she says, are both part of a nation's cultural heritage and "a survival package for the future."

She cites the case of the Scots Dumpy hen, whose short legs mean its eggs do not have far to drop, with a consequent lower risk of fracturing the shell and introducing infection. In an age of growing concern over salmonella, such a hen could be of particular interest to the battery industry. "We have seen rare breeds making a comeback in UK agriculture," Ms Henson says. "As we strive to feed all the people of the world without destroying our planet, we are likely to find more roles for international rare breeds."

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Out of danger: Libby Henson with a Jacob lamb, a breed rescued from possible extinction

Moscow loses green contest

After only a year, the Soviet Union's environmental award has already become a victim of its own success

A time grows short for readers to cast their votes for this year's winner in *The Times/P.M.* Environmental Awards, news comes from Moscow of the demise of a similar competition set up in the Soviet Union last year in imitation of our own awards. Voting forms for the five short-listed entries in our competition were printed in our issue of April 7, and must be received by first post this Friday, April 20.

Last year, the magazine *Za Rubezhom* (Abroad) launched its own environmental award, in which the winning entries were chosen by the magazine's readers from a short-list chosen by a panel of judges.

The competition aroused great interest in the Soviet Union, where organized political activity outside the Communist Party has largely grown out of the work of green pressure-groups moved by anger against the environmental scars inflicted on their country in the name of progress. Industrial pollution and short-sighted diversion of rivers have caused ravages on a scale which dwarfs the ecological problems of most western countries.

There were 650 entries to *Za Rubezhom's* competition last year, which was organized by its science correspondent, Vadim Goncharov. The winner was chosen by a vote in which 3,397 readers played a part, and announced in February this year. He is Dr Alexei Saleyev, who created a botanical garden of more than 1,000 varieties of medicinal plants in the tuberculosis sanatorium of which he is head in the city of Rodniki.

"But the clerical work of recording and checking so many letters was more than our staff could take on regularly," says Nina Ratiani, a member of the magazine's staff. "With regret, we had to decide that we could not repeat the competition."

The only chance for *Za*

Rubezhom's awards would be if the Soviet Ecological Fund, which donated the prizes in the competition last year, could take on the paper-work, and make the event an annual one.

All the letters and details of entries have been passed to the Ecological Fund. "The fund plans to create a data bank, so that the immense body of information can be of continuing value," Mrs Ratiani says. "The letters we received, many of them from children, were very interesting human documents. They show how many people in our country have a sense of a general danger to the environment."

There is a strong similarity between the entries in the British and Soviet competitions. "In both countries, we see finalists who have planted trees to provide a habitat for wildlife, and created ponds to control erosion and add beauty to the locality," Mrs Ratiani says.

Ecological campaigners in the Soviet Union have some advantages over their counterparts in Britain, Mrs Ratiani believes. The common ownership of land makes it easier for volunteers to make improvements over a wide area, without the expense of buying land.

But they also face obstacles, she admits. Seeds and other essential materials may be hard to obtain. This sometimes forces campaigners to improvise. For example, Mikhail Ryabinov, of Cheboksary, in the Chuvash republic, has buried hundreds of worn-out car-tyres in the banks of the river which runs through his village, to stop floods which had carried away fertile farmland and even roads. The new river-banks are creating a new landscape, more attractive to wildlife as well as to the area's human inhabitants.

George Hill

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MEDIA

Stick or twist in a franchise game

David Mellor is booked to attend a forum tonight on "Takeovers and Quality", organized by the Campaign for Quality Television. The campaigners are having a good run; the Minister of State at the Home Office, they say, "listens". He should tonight for the exchanges will come close to the heart of the matter.

The ownership provisions for the new ITV are still far from clear. So, would-be players are confronted by what looks like a rolling game of *vingt-et-un*. At every turn they may choose to stick, twist or buy one; if they choose wrong, they may go out of business.

Thames Television will get the game off to an early start, now that Thorn-EMI and BET have decided to put their 56 per cent up for sale as soon as authorities give a go-ahead. But there is a twist; just what is on offer? Is it what it seems to be on paper, a major slice of a franchise with only 2½ years to run, or is it also some sort of pass, or buy, through the fresh franchise round that allows the prizes for 1993?

Industry-watchers give mixed advice. On the one hand, George Russell, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, in his endless search for a workable formula, seems to have won the right to offer 1993 franchises — against the run of obligatory auction — where greater superior quality can be attested. This would seem to favour existing companies with programme records of some length and distinction. Yet in how many of the 16 available franchise areas can Mr Russell favour superior quality without running counter to what is still the underlying thrust of the Bill to offer franchises by auction to the highest of those bidders who have negotiated the basic quality hurdle?

The detailed wording of the Bill when it comes back in report stage may clarify the point, but at the moment the cautious guess is that it would look more if greatly superior quality were allowed to tilt against the auction in more than a handful of cases. If so, then buying-in begins to look less attractive; better perhaps to stick, to hang back and bid later, and from a clean slate, bearing none of the industrial encumbrance that existing stations have inevitably accrued. But this strategy, too, is not without its perils. After auction, openness to take-over is a second major new feature of the 1993 regime. Mr Russell is still pressing for a one-year moratorium on take-overs for the new appointees. One year after

the 1993 start-up, taken with an earlier year of pre-1993 warm-up and planning, would give a new franchisee time to get his house and his defences in order. But the point has yet to be formally conceded by the Government. For the moment the possibility exists that one or more of the winners could be coshed on the way back to the victory party.

This is the stage at which observers expect EC players to come to the table in force. The Bill puts no limits on EC ownership, but in the run-up to auction, the workings of the quality hurdle are likely to thin numbers. Plausibility will be at a premium. So it may be hard for Berlusconi to cut a dash in the Borders; none too easy for the Luxembourgais to make a convincing lunge at London Weekend. But in any subsequent take-over activity this trip-wire effect disappears. The market's take-over rules will take precedence over the finer points of quality hurdling.

True, the successful take-over artist will be asked to live up to the promises given by the original winner. But promises in this business are necessarily frail: remember the early days of both London Weekend and TV-am? There were promises aplenty, but the performance belied them.

In practice, pressure towards sustaining and reinforcing long-term quality in programming can only be sensibly applied where the relationship itself is long-term and uninterrupted. That is how ITV franchisees have been kept up to the mark hitherto, through the operation of a steady schoolmasterly system of reports, finger-wagging and occasional slapping of the wrist.

The new ITC regime will, no doubt, seek to build in a range of programming desiderata, but is bound to do so in mechanistic and mathematical form — so much of this, so much of that, and at such times, etc. In the new environment, however, it is hard to envisage any new company, especially one acquired by take-over, going beyond the strict letter of the contract. So what may start out as "minima" in the eyes of the ITC will end up as "maxima". The priority business of the new franchisees will surely be to maximize profits and rapidly claw back monies expended in auction, take-over or both. Within the rules of the game as at present propounded, this is a perfectly proper objective, and, presumably, what the Government intends and wants.

BROADCAST
Brian Wenham

Lobbying, tooth and nail

Sally Brompton talks to the man who masterminded the RSPCA's dog registration campaign

A successful lobby requires a combination of sincerity, skill and a precise understanding of the workings of Parliament. So says Gavin Grant, campaign director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who has spearheaded a highly professional campaign for the registration of dogs. The Government may be defeated on the issue.

Mr Grant has spent the last 18 months — and £500,000 in donations — mustering the full forces of the media to persuade the public and press politicians into supporting the case for registration which will once again come before Parliament — possibly next week — in the form of a retable amendment to the Environmental Protection Bill.

The success of Mr Grant's action can be judged by the fact that, in many parts of the country, MPs now receive more letters about dog registration than they do about the poll tax. "I think the single most important thing about lobbying is to speak from the heart," says the former Liberal candidate. "Politicians see through champagne receptions and expenses-paid trips and, anyway, they would be totally inappropriate with the kind of cause we're working for."

As well as the political insight gained as a would-be MP, Mr Grant also has the benefit of his experience with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, where he set up a marketing and communications department, and as campaign director of the Liberal Party.

"I understand the political process and how constrained MPs are by the parliamentary timetable and I think that is very important," he says. He also believes that "the people — or, in our case, the animals — you're advocating on behalf of are often your most crucial allies. The people directly involved speak with a frankness and sincerity which politicians will understand and recognize as the voice of their own constituents."

Aware of the value of impartiality, he commissioned the London School of Economics to carry out a survey into the economics of dog registration. Their independent report showed that the annual cost of stray dogs is more than £76 million compared with the £42 million necessary to establish a nationwide registration scheme with a dog warden service — a discovery



Dogged determination: campaign director Gavin Grant and his dog Pardoe

which, he says, eliminated the Government's argument that the scheme is too expensive to implement.

"Your case must be able to stand up to hostile scrutiny," he explains. "You have to understand where your opposition is going to come from and what they are going to say. Finally, you must build your allies and mobilize the people by making them aware that there is something they can do either by writing to their MP or by economical activity, such as not buying a particular kind of product."

Mr Grant's allies include an all-party group of about 300 MPs led by Dame Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, and Ann Taylor, Labour environment spokeswoman, as well as about 40 organizations, including the Police Federation, the National Farmers' Union, the British Veterinary Association, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, the

Association of District Councils and Child Care Concern. Mr Grant has been bombarding them with briefing papers and diplomatically worded suggestions about how to further their joint cause.

Among the most committed is the Association of District Councils, whose members bear the brunt of dog misdemeanours ranging from strays and fouling to attacks. "Everyone expects the local authority to do something about it," says Brian Etheridge, the association's assistant secretary. "But it is very, very difficult for us to take action against irresponsible dog owners if we can't identify them."

Mr Grant, aged 34, who is married to a vet, joined the RSPCA in the autumn of 1988, five months after the Government abolished dog licences and rejected a House of Lords amendment to introduce a dog registration scheme. Faced with the

task of mounting a campaign, he felt that the society "lacked the cutting edge in terms of bought media capabilities".

He employed the advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers (AMV) to handle the RSPCA account on the basis of the dog registration campaign. "It was clear that what we had to do was conjure the starkest, strongest image we could possibly find to bring home to people the message," he says.

The message was that the RSPCA kills more than 1,000 stray dogs a day. The stark image chosen to depict it was the grisly black-and-white photograph of a mountain of dead dogs with the caption: While the Government looks the other way, another 350,000 dogs look like this.

The award-winning series of posters acted as "the storm troops of the campaign," according to AMV chairman and creative director, David Abbott, who wrote much of the copy.

With an advertising budget of £150,000 ("absolute peanuts", Mr Grant says), Mr Abbott was aware that the campaign "was not going to be a slow burn". He says: "We had to do something that would grab people's attention quite quickly and also dramatize the problem."

When the Kennel Club condemned the posters as "offensive", and banned them and Mr Grant from Crufts, the resulting publicity was a bonus to the campaigners, who rented the hoarding opposite the dog show to display the dead dog mountain montage.

About 400,000 mailshots encouraged supporters to lobby their MPs and regular market research reassured the lobbyists they were going about it the right way. "I was aware we were on dangerous ground because it is a horrific picture," Mr Grant admits. "But I decided not to make any apologies for it."

"Everyone felt we were right to use hard-hitting tactics. Forty-eight per cent felt more positive towards us because of the method we were using. Fifty per cent said the RSPCA had been too quiet in the past."

After the televising of a BBC 2 documentary, *A Shabby Dog Story*, which coincided with the final mail shot, 12,000 people telephoned within 24 hours to support the campaign.

According to Dame Janet, who has been fighting to get dog registration on the statute books for the past 15 years, the controversial campaign is justified by the results. "I know there is a minority which does not like the style but I think it is perfectly permissible to remind people of what they do not want to be reminded of," she says.

"We have tried sensible, moderate ways of bringing people together and we've not been listened to. Therefore, I think, it's legitimate to use shock tactics."

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MEDIA

My BBC battles, by the Duke

Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, tells Richard Evans that he has turned the ailing corporation into a fighting force

As any military commander will confirm, if the attitude of the troops is correct and they are carrying out the right manoeuvres properly, the enemy had better beware.

Marmaduke Hussey, who survived a bullet in the spine at Anzio in 1944 on his way to becoming chairman of the BBC, now believes after three and a half years of skirmishing and reorganisation that his 28,000-strong corps is in the right mood to advance in the multi-channel broadcasting environment of the 1990s.

This does not mean that the radical changes he has overseen are complete, or that his team will survive intact. Far from it; there will be many more changes and casualties in the forthcoming months and years. But he is convinced the BBC has turned the corner since the dark and dismal days at the end of 1986 when he took charge of a corporation under siege, and he produces evidence gleaned from his front-line forces to justify the confidence.

Like any good officer, he eats from time to time with selected employees in the infamous canteens at Broadcasting House and Television Centre in an attempt to find out what his staff are thinking.

"I did it yesterday, as a matter of fact, and a very bright lot of people were too. Middle-range people, and this is by no means the first time it has happened. The message I get is 'We know the BBC has got to change. We see now that the governors and the management are changing the BBC - and thank heavens for it.' That view permeates right through the whole

organization. People realize things are changing."

Putting aside his genuine exuberance for a moment, has he lost sight of the scale of problems facing the BBC? Less than a year ago it was engulfed in a bitter dispute which highlighted the low pay of many staff. More money is needed to reward employees and to finance programmes, whose costs rise faster than inflation. Yet funding is, at best, static in real terms.

From next April the licence fee, which will bring in around £1,200 million this year, will in theory no longer be automatically indexed. The BBC's Charter has to be renegotiated in 1996 and the independent sector is expected to make 25 per cent of BBC programmes within the next three years.

'We all know the challenges we face and a great deal is going on to deal with it'

Perhaps the daily physical pain endured since the war, the harrowing years spent in the newspaper industry and his own back-ground, help Mr Hussey put the BBC difficulties into perspective.

Educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford, he is married to Lady Susan Hussey, a lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Although some BBC staff regard the tall, imposing figure as an out-of-touch relic unsuited to the highly competitive television era, many acknowledge his qualities. He is the Willie Whitely of the BBC, whose sometimes less than perfect public performances, such as at this year's *See For Yourself* exercise, mask a razor-sharp brain and shrewd political antennae.

Compared with the industrial strife he encountered at Associated Newspapers and Times Newspapers, culminating in the year-long shutdown in 1979, the BBC



BBC figure-heads: Marmaduke Hussey with a bust of Lord Reith, the founding father of the BBC. "People realize things are changing"

problems must seem relatively minor. But many difficulties still have to be overcome.

"I would like to look at it in a slightly different way. Look how the BBC has changed in the last three and a half years. I think it is a far more confident BBC now. If we start at the top, the governors and the board of management work together, they plan together a strategy as to how we approach various problems we have."

"We have changed the whole ethos and attitude of the BBC. When I joined it was a very Civil Service, academic-type ethos, which is not really surprising because it was largely run on Civil Service lines and, in many ways, staffed from academic homes."

"It was a government-protected monopoly and part of a government-protected monopoly for the first 60 years of its existence. Then it quite suddenly found itself slap in the middle of a multinational competitive industry - and that was a hell of a culture shock."

"So we had to make changes. We have made changes, and the first

change is in attitude. Of course, there have been managerial changes. All the top jobs at the BBC have changed over the past three and a half years. John Tusa [head of the World Service] is the only person with the same job. People are much younger."

"I think the BBC is now aware of the problems it faces. I remember when I was first here asking what would happen when all the new channels arrived. A senior BBC man told me: 'Don't worry about that, chairman. It won't happen.'"

"The BBC is very different now. We all know the challenges we face and a great deal is going on to deal with it." Increased public accountability, in the shape of the *See For Yourself* exercise, "dramatic" changes to news and current affairs, which have bolstered audiences significantly, and "remendous" changes in BBC regions are rattled off as examples of the seismic alterations.

The Phillips committee set up to find more money for staff following last year's strike, and a review of the pay system and grading by

Pest Marwick, have attempted to tackle grievances. Economies, savings and putting services out to tender have all been recommended.

Mr Hussey insists the wide range of programming will not be curtailed. "In my view the five national radio channels will continue, the two television channels will continue, and I have yet to see any solid alternative to the BBC local radio chain. So I think the range will continue as it is."

Which leaves jobs. Six months ago *The Times* predicted that up to a quarter of the workforce would be shed during the early 1990s. In recent days a broadcasting union leader has estimated the loss of between 6,000 and 9,000 jobs.

Mr Hussey responds: "Broadcasting is in the greatest boom time in its history. Radio stations are jumping up all round the country, satellites are whizzing up into the sky. There are more job opportunities for people in radio and television than ever before."

"These people, if they leave us, are leaving at a time when there are more broadcasting jobs going

round, and it should not be so difficult. I would be totally wrong to give you any forecast of how the BBC will be reduced or by how many, because we simply have not got to that stage yet."

But job reductions will provide the extra funding necessary for programmes? "Yes - and for those areas where we know we are paying too little. I have never concealed my view that in some areas the BBC employs far too many people at far too low rates, particularly in the ancillary areas."

Looking to post 1996, he insists the licence fee, rather than advertising or subscription, should remain the BBC's source of funding. It enables the corporation to take risks, such as backing programmes like *The Black Adder* and *Yes Minister* which, he points out, were initially failures.

"In the end the licence fee issue will be resolved by whether we retain what we have at the moment, which is the support, affection and admiration of audiences. If we lose that, we will lose the licence fee."

Passion and protest

How the Mandela concert rates in complaints league

Nelson Mandela reached Wembley stadium before Manchester United, but he was no match for the Red Devils in the latest round of the BBC "unpopularity stakes" (Richard Evans writes).

Amid the hullabaloo over the Easter Monday concert, two facts are worth considering. By yesterday morning, the BBC had received about 300 telephone calls from viewers, most of them complaints. Some criticized the five hours of live television devoted to the event; others pointed to a propaganda "coup" for the African National Congress. Others were plain racist.

Last Wednesday, the BBC devoted about two and a half hours to the Manchester United versus Oldham FA Cup semi-final replay. More than 600 people telephoned with complaints.

"The scheduling of sport incites considerable passion. It always outpoints politics, sex, bad language... anything you like," a BBC spokesman said yesterday.

Despite the criticism, the BBC apparently has no regrets about its decision to televise the concert, or its coverage.

"When we heard that a concert of this scale was being put together with a promised bill of international artists right across the musical spectrum, plus the fact that Mandela was to make his first utterances in Britain after 27 years in jail, it seemed to us that this was an occasion which a substantial number of our viewers would wish us to reflect and be present at," the spokesman said.

"If you ask us after the dust has settled, 'was it the right decision we would have to stick by it.'"

If the BBC had decided not to go for the concert, rival broadcasters would have stepped in. A Channel 4 spokesman said: "If we had been offered it, we would have considered it on its merits. On the evidence of what we saw on the BBC we would have been happy to play it."

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Continued from page 37

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ROCK

David Sinclair

PHIL COLLINS: Start of a triumphal run of concerts celebrating the phenomenal success of his *But Seriously* album. Sun-Tues (also April 22): Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212), 7.30pm, £15-22.50.

SUZANNE VEGA: Earnest Greenwich Village folkie turned mainstream adult-rock star touring a resonant but bleak new album *Days of Open Hand*. Today: Brighton Dome, 29 New Road (0273 574557), 7.30pm, £8-10. Tomorrow: Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth (0705 824355), 7.30pm, £8-10. Fri: Poole Arts Centre, Kings Road (0202 685222), 7.30pm, £8-10. Sun: Cornwall College, Carverton Bay, St Austell (07261 4004), 7.30pm, £8-10. Mon: Newquay Centre, Kingsway (0333 259576), 7.30pm, £8-10. Tues: Crawley Leisure Centre, Haslett Avenue (0293 37431), 7.30pm, £9-10-12.

KYLIE MINOGUE: Bright, wholesome and multi-talented popper whose appeal shows no sign of diminishing how ever much her detractors may wish otherwise.

Today, tomorrow: NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), 7.30pm, £11-12.50. Sat-Mon: London Arena, Limehouse, E14 (01-538 1212), 7.30pm, £11-12.50.

SINEAD O'CONNOR: Shaven-headed Irish wife with a voice as bracing as a bright winter's morning. Currently doing brisk business, especially in America, with *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*. Today: Brighton Centre, Kings Road (0273 202861), 7.30pm, £8.50. Fri: Newport Centre, Kingsway (0353 259576), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sat: Sun Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061 273 3775), 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Tues: April 28: Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081), 7.30pm, £8.50-£9.50.

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: Disco darling featuring material from the days of Bronski Beat and the Communards along with more recent solo offerings such as "Read My Lips" and "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)". Today: Heaven, The Arches, off Craven Street, London WC2 (01-639 3852), 7.30pm, £8.

THE NOTTING HILLBILLIES: Mark Knopfler's "antiques roadshow". Today: Riverside Centre, Chestnut Avenue, Torquay (0803 299992), 7.30pm, £7-£9. Tomorrow: Newport Centre, Kingsway (0353 259576), 7.30pm, £8.50. Fri: Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061 273 3775), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sat: Royal Court, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sun: Sheffield City Hall, Barbers Pool (0742 735295), 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50.

ADAMSKI: The "Acid Skinhead" is quite the most colourful figure who has emerged from the warehouse party scene, a movement that has been big on controversy but low on cult of personality.

Fri: Top Rank, West Street, Brighton (0273 732627), 9pm-2am, £10. Sat: Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 357851), 7.30pm, £12.

JERRY LEE LEWIS: Hell-fire piano man and first generation rock'n'roller now in his dotage. Today: Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, near Camberley (252 63464), 8pm, £24 (no singles; mixed couples only). Please phone for confirmation.

ALBERT COLLINS: Ice-picking blues guitarist who extended a formative influence on Robert Cray among others. Also on the bill are much-vaunted heavy blues-rockers, the Knavey Road. Sat: Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-437 6603), 7.30pm, £9.50.

LENNY KRAVITZ: Rock 'n' roll dread with influences encompassing the Beatles, Stax and Prince. Already well on the way to stardom in America. Today: Marquee, 105 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-437 6603), 7.30pm, £7.

JOLIS HOLLAND: Television presenter, member of Squeeze, boogie-woogie

Out of Rochdale



Voted "Best Newcomer of 1989" at the recent Brits Awards and with "All Around the World" now comfortably lodged in the American Top 3, the time has come for Lisa Stansfield (pictured here) to show what kind of star she can cut in live concert performance. She is a graduate of the same post-House school as Yaz, with whom she shares both management and an early association with the Coldcut production team. She was featured on their "People Hold On" single and they produced her first solo hit, "This is the Right Time", which together with "All Around the World" is included on her debut album, *Affection*. UK sales of the album are now put at more than 750,000 and it too has found its way into the US Top 20. A down-to-earth, 23-year-old, girl-next-door type from Rochdale, Stansfield has the kind of sultry voice and singing accent that one would more readily expect to hear from an American soul diva such as Roberta Flack. Her live band is being directed by Ian Devaney and Andy Morris, the former Blue Zone duo which produced and co-wrote much of *Affection*, and it seems a safe bet, given her ability to cope with everything from sensual after-hours soul to good-time funk and a forceful personality to match, that Stansfield will give satisfaction on her debut tour. Today: Royal Court, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Tomorrow: Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679), 7.30pm, £7.50. Friday: Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (091 261 2606), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Saturday: Sheffield City Hall, Barbers Pool (0742 735295), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Sunday: Newport Centre, 0633 259576, 7.30pm, £7.50. Tuesday, Wednesday: Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 9562), 7.30pm, £7.50-£9.50. David Sinclair

liant *nonpareil*, and now singer on the planet stage, a version of the Las Dorsey hit "Holy Cow". Sat: Dome, Doncaster Leisure Park, Bawtry Road (0302 370888), 7.30pm, £4-£5. Mon: Brighton Dome, 29 New Road (0273 574557), 7.30pm, £5.50-£6.50. Tues: Congress, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne (0232 412000), 8pm, £5.50-£6.50.

MAHO NEGRA: Hyperactive Parisian troupe, whose album *Put's Fever* is a bewildering 18-track concoction of rap, rock, rai, rockabilly, reggae and more. New single "Rock 'n' Roll Band" released last week. Certain to be a riotous assembly.

Tomorrow: Town & Country, 8-14 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-284 0303), 7.30pm, £8.

INSPIRAL CARPETS: Fashionable, Mancunian "scatyletic" band riding the crest of their first wave of popular success with a debut album, *Life*, released this week.

Sun: McGonagles, South St Anne Street, Dublin (010 3531 774402), 7.30pm, £5-£7. Mon: Queens University, Belfast (0232 324803), 7.30pm, £5-£6. Tues: Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679), 7.30pm, £5.10.

FAITH NO MORE: Heavy metal crazies who have widened their appeal to embrace a more "knowing" audience with the off-the-wall epics of their singles "Epic" and now "From Out of Nowhere".

Today: Top Hat, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin (010 3531 80840), 7.30pm, £7. Tomorrow: Utaher Hall, Bedford Street, Belfast

HERB GELLER: Opening dates of a tour by the respected West Coast alto-saxophone player, now based in West Germany.

Tonight, tomorrow: Bass Club, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2476), 8.45pm, £5. Sat: Sun: Bass Club, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2476), 8.45pm, £5. Sat: Sun: Bass Club, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2476), 8.45pm, £5.

SCOTT HAMILTON: One of the few young exponents of swing saxophone, the American player boasts a ripe vibrato modelled on fellow-American Coleman Hawkins.

Tonight: The Concordia Club, Stansham Lane, Epsom, Surrey (0383 613889), 8pm. Tomorrow: Pizza Express, 32 Earl Street, Maidstone (0222 683450), 8.30pm, £5. Fri: Sun: Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722), 9.30pm, £5. Mon: Birch Hall Hotel, Leeds, Oldham (061 624 4351), 8pm, £5 on door. Tues: Cammings Hotel, Church Street, Inverness (0222 225271), 8pm, £5.

OFF ABBEY ROAD: Mike Westbrook's manic treatment of Beatles songs draws on the voices of Phil Minton and Kate Westbrook and a band including guitarist Brian Godding.

Fri: Bournemouth Theatre, Arnold Leisure Centre, Nottingham (0502 419741), 8pm, £4.50. Sun: The Mechanics, Manchester Road, Burnley (0222 30055), 8pm, £5.

SUE SHATTUCK/IAN SHAW: Britain's two most promising crossover singers appear together as part of the Vortex's week-long "Festival Of The Voice", which ends on Sunday. Other highlights include Carol Grimes (Fri).

Tonight-Sat: Vortex Jazz Bar, 138 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 (01-254 6516), 8.30pm, £5.

JAZZDAY: Thirteen hours of non-stop New Orleans music from five bands, among them the Ken Colyer Trust All Stars and the Zenith Hot Stompers.

Sat: Sun: The Mechanics, Manchester Road, Burnley (0222 30055), 8pm, £5. Sun: The Dome Leisure Centre, Bawtry Road, Doncaster (0302 370888), 8pm, £4-£5.

GEORGE MELLY: Good Time George belts out the blues, accompanied - as always - by John Chilton's Feetwarmers.

Mon: Fairfield Hall, Park Lane, Croydon (01-688 9291), 8pm, £5.50, £7.50.

WORLD MUSIC
David Toop

OSCAR D'LEON: Third London visit for this excellent Venezuelan singer and double bass player whose high regard in salsa circles began in the mid-Seventies.

Sun: Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London W1 (01-437 1448), 7.30pm, £8.50.

ALL FARKA TOURS: Remarkable singer and guitarist from Mali whose own bluesy, traditional Mali style has in turn been influenced by American soul and blues. His new album, *The River*, is tremendous. See him before he retires.

Sun: Ronnie Scott's Club, Friar Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), 8pm, £7.50.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

(0232 329666), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sat: St Georges Hall, Hall Ings, Bradford (0274 752000), 7.30pm, £5-£7. Sun: Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679), 7.30pm, £7.10. Mon: Mayfair, Newgate Street, Newcastle (081 222 3108), 7.30pm, £7. Tues: Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061 273 3775), 7.30pm, £8-£7.

BOB DOROUGH: Settle and standards from the Arkansas singer-pianist, occupying the stool at the supper club venue for the next week and a half.

Tonight: Plaza On The Park, 10 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5550). Sets at 9.15pm and 11.15pm, £10.

RALPH SUTTON: Once the intermission pianist at Eddie Condon's club, the American pianist is a master of the stride and boogie-woogie styles.

Tonight, tomorrow: Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722), 9.30pm, £8. Fri: The Station, Wavendon, Milton Keynes (0908 583228), 8.15pm, £4.

CHICO FREEMAN: In residence until Saturday week, the neo-bop saxophonist fronts a fusion band, Brainstorm, playing material from the album, *The Mystical Dreamer*.

Tonight: Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Friar Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs 8.10 (members £2), Fri-Sat 12 (members £5).

Mon: Bluecoat Art Centre, School Lane, Liverpool (051 709 5297), 8pm, £4.

D.L. MEMARD AND EDDIE LEJEUNE: Direct from Louisiana, both Memard and Lejeune play exuberant Cajun dance music. They can also be heard on two excellent albums, released to coincide with this tour.

Tonight: Community Centre, Wombourne, near Wolverhampton (0384 25267), 8pm, £5. Tomorrow: Irish Centre, Brunswick Road, Sheffield (0742 731578), 7.30pm, £4. Fri: Waterman Arts Centre, High Street, Brentford (01-847 5551), 8pm, £5.50. Sat: Junction Club, Clifton Road, Cambridge (0223 122600), 7pm, £5. Tues: The Richmond, Richmond Place, Brighton (0273 503974), 9pm, £5.50.

TOM PACHECO: Expatiate American country-folk-rock singer-songwriter. A cult figure in the Seventies, he has lived and worked in Woodstock, Austin and Nashville developing a rough-hewn style heard to good effect on his latest album, *Circle in the Rain*.

Tues: Acoustic Room, Mean Fiddler, 24-28 Harlesden High Street, London NW10 (01-861 5480), 8pm, £3.

LIAM O'FLYNN: Irish uilleann piper who has worked with John Cage and Kate Bush.

Fri: Wilkesden Green Library Centre, High Road, London NW10 (01-451 4876), 8.30pm, £4.

FARHAM FOLK DAY: International folk and roots, including Eddie Lejeune and D.L. Memard, the Whistler Brothers, Makin' and Kathryn Tickell.

Sun: The Millings, Farnham, Surrey (084421 2231), midday-11pm, £12.

CHABA FADELA/CHAB SAHRAOUC: Husband and wife duo from Algeria who have been at the forefront of Pop-Fal. Chaba Fadela is one of the most exciting singers of this eclectic north African music.

Tues: Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London W1 (01-437 1448), 8.30pm, £7.

MAKVRAG: Multi-instrumentalist from Hungary who plays Eastern European traditional music.

Fri: South Coast World Centre, Bognor Regis (084421 2231), events begin 10am, £5.

ADEVA: Powerful vocalist from New Jersey, who has crossed over from the garage-house club scene on to the pop charts.

Tonight: Hummingbird, Dale End, Birmingham (021 236 4236), 7.30pm, £7.50. Sun: Brixton Academy, Stockwell Road, London SW9 (01-326 1022), 7.30pm, £8.50. Mon: St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236), 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Tues: The Mill, High Street, Stockton on Tees (0642 603134), 7.30pm, £7.50.

NATIONAL FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL: Three-day festival which seeks to encourage participation in traditional music, song and dance. Appearances by Fiddler Byrnes, the Fiddle Puppets and many others.

From Fri: School of Agriculture, Sutton Bonington, near Louthborough (0295 85955), Friday tickets £5, weekend tickets £20.

Compiled by Karl Knight

• Home for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- (1) Vogue - Madonna, Sire
- (2) Black Velvet - Alannah Myles, Atlantic/Eastwest
- (3) The Power - Snap, Arista
- (4) Kingston Town - UB40, Cap International
- (5) Opposites Attract - Paula Abdul with The Wild Pair, A&M
- (6) Step On - Happy Mondays, Factory
- (7) I Wanna Dance with Somebody - George Brown, Capitol
- (8) Hang on to Your Love - Jason Donovan, PWL
- (9) Love Shack - B-52s, Reprise
- (10) Love Shack - B-52s, Reprise

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

- (1) Behind the Mask - Fleetwood Mac, Warner Bros
- (2) Only Yesterday - Carpenters, A&M
- (3) ... But Seriously - David Bowie, EMI
- (4) ... But Seriously - Phil Collins, Virgin
- (5) Brigade - The Hollies, Capitol
- (6) Labour of Love II - UB40, Dep International
- (7) Absolute - Nigel Kennedy/JECO, EMI
- (8) The Best of Van Morrison - Van Morrison, Polygram
- (9) Can I Play With Madness - Iron Maiden, EMI
- (10) Can I Play With Madness - Iron Maiden, EMI

Compiled by Gallup for Music Week/BBC/EMI

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol £) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG): Available if you're a fan of the time-travelling, woolly-headed teenagers. Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Customers: Chelsea (01-352 5058) Oxford Street (01-636 0310) Pavilion Street (01-580 0831) Odeons Kensington (01-602 6644/5) Sainsbury's (01-722 5805) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15): Highly charming freestyle between a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Camden Palace (01-257 7034) Cannon Shakespeare Avenue (01-636 8857) Odeons Kensington (01-602 6644/5) Sainsbury's (01-722 5805) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

GLORY (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War: powerful performances. Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KID (G): Menace to children: through their garden to safety. Engaging special effects. Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

CAPTAIN JACK (U): Winning Australian children's film about a deaf boy finding solace with the sea and an Italian immigrant. ICA Cinema (01-930 3847), From Sat.

MOCANE AND MRS MILLER (18): Festival of Robert Altman's mood: Western of a gambler (Marnie Nixon) establishing a bordello in a mining town. With Julie Christie. Camden Palace (01-485 2443).

SANTA SANGRE (18): Alejandro Jodorowsky's extraordinary, disturbing, blood-soaked fantasy set in a travelling circus. Metro (01-437 0757) Gate (01-727 4043).

UNCLE BUCK (12): Fluffy comedy with John Candy as a ne'er-do-well taking care of his brother's children. Campton (01-257 7034) 5772 Fulham Road (01-270 2595) Sainsbury's (01-722 5805) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (PG): Disappointing, unimpressive cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Camden Palace (01-257 7034) 5772 Fulham Road (01-270 2595) Sainsbury's (01-722 5805) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Barchin (01-636 8851) Campton (01-485 2443) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

CELA (15): Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Striking debut by director Ann Turner. Canon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Metro (01-437 0757).

CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWBOYS (18): Bold, flawed adaptation of a murderous crime spree in wartime London. Emily Lloyd, Kiefer Sutherland. Odeon West End (01-636 8851) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema: a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Canon Mayfair (01-485 2443).

COURAGE MOUNTAIN (15): Lame, spurious adventures of Johann Stry's heroic Held in World War One. Customers: Chelsea (01-352 5058) Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Pavilion Street (01-580 0831).

DRIVING MISS DAISY (G): Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Canon Fulham Road (01-378 2636) Mileage (01-235 4225) Warner (01-439 0731) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

DUST IN THE WIND: Tribulations of teenagers in the big city: affectionate 1988 film by the Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-hsien. ICA Cinema (01-930 3847).

EVERETT, A LOVE STORY (15): Lucie Arnott's singing, novel.

THE REBORN (15): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Barchin (01-636 8851) Campton (01-485 2443) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

STRAPLESS (15): David Hare's intriguing drama about love, betrayal, and political activism. Canon West End (01-439 0757).

TANGO AND CASH (15): Paganistic thriller with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell as cops out to ruin crime boss Jack Ruby. Canon Fulham Road (01-378 2636) Mileage (01-235 4225) Warner (01-439 0731) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

TRIP TO ITALY (15): Gérard Philipe's love story between his wife and mistress. Slightly satirical on marital mores from Bertrand Blier. Chelsea (01-352 5058) Screen on Brompton (01-722 5805/272) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15): A perfect marriage self-destructs violently. Exhilarating black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Canon Fulham Road (01-378 2636) Mileage (01-235 4225) Warner (01-439 0731) Whiteleys (01-722 3303/3324).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2155

ACROSS

- 1 Hired horse (4)
- 3 Curse (5)
- 5 Piglike (7)
- 10 French gold coin (5)
- 11 Light tube gas (4)
- 12 S Yemen capital (4)
- 13 Spasmodic twitch (3)
- 15 Utopia archipelago (3,4)
- 17 Down goddess (3)
- 19 Great/Little Channel island (4)
- 20 Quires (4)
- 23 Canadian flag tree (5)
- 24 Cross-country runner (7)
- 25 Ages (5)
- 26 Entrailed (4)

DOWN

- 1 Safe port (7)
- 2 Nun's cap (4)
- 4 Frenchized (8)
- 5 Crown up (5)
- 6 Twist (4)
- 7 Human mind, soul (6)
- 9 "Fat" type (9)
- 14 Chin hair (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 2154

ACROSS: 1 Winning post 9 Gurnsey 10 Nasal 11 Est. 13 Dist. 16 20 Stag 21 Kung Fu 22 Pain 23 Blue 25 Ref. 28 Outdo 29 Rulings 30 Ernest Bevin

DOWN: 1 Idios 3 Name 4 Nine 5 Pant 6 Suspect 7 Wooden spoon 8 Elbow grease 12 Idios 14 Toe 15 Accuse 19 Printer 20 Sub 24 Lungi 25 Role 26 Fret 27 Eise

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

TAKA

(c) The standard unit of currency in Bangladesh, one taka or it is made up of 100 paisa, from the Bengali word. The national anthem is "Bangla Desh Bangla", and the flag a red circle on a green ground.

DIFFERENCE

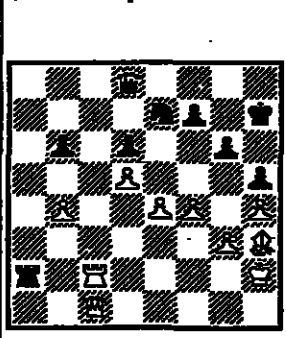
(a) The ancient Roman mode of dissolution of marriage, from the Latin *dis* away + *ferre* to carry, and the flag a red circle on a green ground.

CIRCUMCISION

(c) The reciprocity of existence in one another of the three persons of the Trinity, from the Latin *circum* around + *ferre* to carry, and the flag a red circle on a green ground.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is taken from the game Lesage (White) - Huber (Black), Canada 1989. How does White exploit his king-side initiative most effectively? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qxh7! 1 Kxh7 2 Rh1+ Kg8 3 Rh8+ Kf7 4 Ng5 mate.

ENTERTAINMENTS

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-34
● SPORT 42-46Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6315 (-0.0110)
W German mark
2.7389 (-0.0098)
Exchange index
86.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT-30 Share
1736.3 (-4.7)
FT-SE 100
2214.5 (-7.6)USM (Datastream)
140.17 (-0.65)

Market report, page 30

Michael Peters sell-offs

MICHAEL Peters is selling two businesses that he bought for £7.6 million two years ago. Spectrum Communications is being sold to management for £3.7 million but the group is unlikely to achieve the £10 million it paid for HTI. Peters' pre-tax losses for the half year were £2.94 million (£1.07 million profit). Loss per share was 16p (5.1p). There is no interim dividend.

Times, page 26

McKechie dip

McKechie saw pre-tax profits fall from £17.3 million to £12.7 million in its half year. But the interim dividend is held at 5p. Times, page 26

EIS progress

EIS Group has achieved its nineteenth year of profit and dividend growth with taxable profits of £11.9 million (£9.6 million). A final dividend of 7.7p (6.9p) makes 10.45p (9.35p). Times, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2768.76 (-8.30)
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 24481.90 (-1.35)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 3020.44 (-24.75)
Amsterdam: AEX 118.1 (+1.1)
Sydney: ASX 482.2 (+0.2)
Frankfurt: DAX 1914.55 (-3.85)
Brussels: CSE 118.1 (+1.1)
Stockholm: OMX 118.1 (+1.1)
Oslo: OBX 118.1 (+1.1)
Copenhagen: OMX 118.1 (+1.1)
Paris: CAC 350 118.1 (+1.1)
Madrid: IBEX 35 118.1 (+1.1)
Lisbon: PSI 20 118.1 (+1.1)
Athens: ASE 118.1 (+1.1)
Tel Aviv: TA 118.1 (+1.1)
Bangkok: SET 118.1 (+1.1)
Jakarta: JSE 118.1 (+1.1)
Singapore: SSI 118.1 (+1.1)
Kuala Lumpur: KLSE 118.1 (+1.1)
Manila: PSE 118.1 (+1.1)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 3020.44 (-24.75)
London: FT-30 1736.3 (-4.7)
FT-SE 100 2214.5 (-7.6)
Recent losses: Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES: Harvey & Thompson 500p (+10p)
News Corp 502p (+10p)
Thames TV 525p (+10p)
Dishnet 710p (+10p)
Helical Bar 280p (+10p)
FALLS: Frogmore 405p (-10p)
McKechie 220p (-10p)
Capital Radio 194p (-10p)
Hardanger 550p (-10p)
Preston Motors 250p (-10p)
UK Land 580p (-10p)
Sardines 580p (-10p)
Harland Simon 650p (-10p)
Micro Focus 807p (-10p)
Roffmeyer 820p (-10p)
L&S 570p (-10p)
BOC 510p (-10p)
Royal 481p (-10p)
Granger 203p (-10p)
Greyhound 423p (-10p)
Closing prices: 12814
SEAQ Volume: 254.0m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15%
3-month sterling bill 14%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.77-7.75%
30-year bonds 87-87 1/2

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$ 1.6315
£/DM 2.7389
£/SwFr 2.4333
£/Pfr 2.0774
£/Yen 161.20
£/Indec 86.7
ECU 20.46351
ECU 1.39692
New York: London
\$/£ 0.6128
DM/£ 0.3636
SwFr/£ 0.4108
Pfr/£ 0.4815
Yen/£ 155.00
Indec/£ 115.00
ECU/£ 1.9360
ECU/£ 1.39692

GOLD

London: Gold
AM \$373.85 pm \$374.00
Close \$373.75-374.25 (2225-25)
New York: Gold
Close \$374.20-374.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$17.25 bid
Dances latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.25	2.25
Austria Sch	2.25	2.25
Canada \$	1.75	1.75
Denmark Kr	1.35	1.35
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.36
Italy Lit	2.00	2.00
Japan Yen	161.20	161.20
Netherlands Gld	2.25	2.25
Portugal Esc	2.00	2.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.46	10.46
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
Taiwan New	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.63	1.63
Yugoslavia Din	2.00	2.00

Rates for all currencies are based on the pound sterling. Rates for all currencies are based on the pound sterling. Rates for all currencies are based on the pound sterling.

Deutsche Bank set for East German link

By Neil Rymaszewski
Banking Correspondent

DEUTSCHE Bank, Europe's largest bank, is poised to make a grand entry into East Germany's newly-liberalized financial industry after agreeing to form a joint venture with the East German Deutsche Kreditbank.

The joint venture is expected to include 100 of Kreditbank's 170 branches, a quarter of the East German retail banking network. It will aim to build a universal bank, offering retail and corporate ser-

vices, as yet unheard of in East Germany.

A letter of agreement to set up the new company was signed in Frankfurt yesterday by Herr Hilmar Kopper, the speaker of the board of Deutsche, and Herr Edgar Most, the head of Kreditbank.

The details have yet to be agreed, but Deutsche is expected to take a 49 per cent stake in the new company, supplying it with a substantial capital injection and training, while Kreditbank will provide the branch network. The

new bank will be based in East Berlin, although its formation is dependent on agreement over the exchange rate between the two countries and planned changes in East German legislation to allow private joint ventures.

A statement from the banks said the company would "contribute towards the creation of an effective banking system in the GDR as a precondition for a successful restructuring of its economy." It added: "Both founding institutions do not expect the joint banking

institutions to acquire a dominant market position".

Previously, after Deutsche revealed it was talking to Kreditbank, analysts expected it to take a majority stake in the company. It is believed to have backed down from this after pressure from the West German federal cartel office, which is opposed to any Western company forming a monopoly.

Last month, the office severely criticized Allianz, the West German insurance group, after it presented plans to take a majority

stake in Staatliche Versicherung der DDR, the East German insurer. It has no jurisdiction, however, over the acquisition.

The cartel office said yesterday that it needed more details on the banks' joint venture before it decided whether to investigate.

Kreditbank was formed last month as part of the break-up of the Staatsbank. Its plans to expand into retail services will bring it into competition with East Germany's dominant savings banks. The agreement leaves Dresdner and

Commerzbank, Deutsche's rivals, with the unenviable choice of either wooing the savings banks or growing organically after reunification.

When it announced its 1989 figures last month, Deutsche's board revealed it had a vision of operating 250 branches in East Germany with up to 6,000 employees. At the time, Herr Kopper stressed that the bank did not want to take on Kreditbank, which has estimated assets of DM300 billion (£109.5 billion), in one go.

B&C writes off £550m at Atlantic

By Angela Mackay

British & Commonwealth Bank, with capital of £90 million - and said several smaller subsidiaries would go on sale soon.

In what is being billed as one of the biggest administrations since the Insolvency Act 1986 came into being, Price Waterhouse partners Mr Peter Padmore and Mr John Soden were appointed joint administrators by the court on Monday night. Twenty-five staff were assigned immediately to the account and a spokeswoman said this would rise to 50 by tomorrow as the auditors grapple with Atlantic's 119 subsidiaries which employ 1,050.

Sir Peter said B&C would consider legal action against former auditors, employees and merchant banks but "no one is in our sights yet."

B&C was a stock market favourite in 1986 and 1987 when Mr John Gunn took the helm, first as chief executive then chairman, but the stock market crash and overspending whittled away value. The shares have fallen from a peak of 564p to 53p at suspension.

Sir Peter said Atlantic's 1988 accounts contained material errors and that the company incurred a substantial loss in 1989. An investigation by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock and Boston Consulting Group also indicated

that previously reported profits and net assets were "materially overstated".

Analysts said they doubted there was much value left in B&C for shareholders.

When B&C bought Atlantic for £416 million in July 1988, the market frowned on the deal. Its suspension was supported by a £40 million provision in the 1988 accounts and the announcement of a complete review of Atlantic's lease portfolio in the 1989 interim results.

B&C said then the review was unlikely to have a material impact on the group's 1989 earnings.

Since the purchase, B&C has pumped in £117 million of new capital and loans.

Last month the chairman of Atlantic, Mr Nick Kennedy Scott, resigned from the boards of Atlantic and B&C and on March 28, the chief executive, Mr David McCormick, was suspended.

Neither Sir Peter nor Mr Gunn would say what Atlantic's debts were.

Atlantic's problems stem from an accounting policy which took all the profits from the life of the lease up front in the first year, though customers had the right to revoke the lease before it ended. This meant there was no cash flow to substantiate the initial profit and the residual value of the computers was very hard to quantify.

Exacerbating the problem, IBM started an aggressive in-house leasing business which undercut Atlantic, which mainly leased IBM and DEC computers. Atlantic could not write down the depreciation on the computers fast enough, analysts say, and the company's problems multiplied.

B&C's businesses include Exco, the money broker, BC-NB Group, its banking arm, Oppenheimer, the US fund manager, and professional services involving property, insurance broking and consulting services.

Comment, page 27
City Diary, page 27



Sir Peter Thompson and John Gunn yesterday

Board stands by Gunn

MR JOHN Gunn, B&C's embattled chief executive, received the unequivocal support of his board yesterday, despite being the main architect of the strategy which cast down one of the market's highest flyers (Angela Mackay writes).

Sir Peter Thompson, chairman, told the Press that Mr Gunn had made his resignation available but B&C was "not in the sacrificial lamb game." He said: "In my experience, it only produces dead mutton."

Mr Gunn will stay on the team, Sir Peter said, to make assets disposals and help restructure the company, which has suffered an astound-

ing fall from favour. When Mr Gunn joined the board of B&C in October 1985, then aged 43, he had an immediate rejuvenative effect: the company's shares jumped 14p to 310p.

Founder of Exco, the money broker, which B&C bought in November 1986, Mr Gunn, a northerner educated at Nottingham University, had a reputation for being a dynamic hardworker with proven management ability.

Exco was formed after a management buyout of the money broker Ansley & Pearce, where Gunn was managing director of foreign exchange. The Cayzer family,

which had created B&C as a shipping group, were happy to put this relative stranger in the driver's seat and gave him ideas their blessing. When Lord Cayzer retired from the board, Mr Gunn stepped into his role as chairman.

Mr Gunn completed the transformation of B&C into a financial services group by the middle of 1988. Speculation that he was not keen on buying Atlantic Computers but was convinced by the board speaks for his collegiate style, but this was one occasion when his instincts as a trader should have overridden the wishes of his fellow executives.

cent of the equity if it meets performance targets. It hopes to float the company in three years.

With 2,300 instructors and 130 branches, BSM is the only national driving school in Britain. Its proud boast is that one of its pupils passes the test every seven minutes, and last year, it tutored more than 200,000. Profits have risen steadily, and on the £40 million price, it is valued at 10 times earnings.

The buyout is also the first from Morgan Grenfell's Capital Partners fund, which is buying all the equity. The fund has raised its £145 million target in six months from 15 institutions worldwide and closed over Easter.

Jacobs sells only national driving school for £40m

BSM managers drive into hot seat

By Our Banking Correspondent

THE British School of Motoring, the institution which has educated generations in the mysteries of clutch control and the emergency stop, has allowed its management into the driving seat. It is being sold to a buyout financed by Morgan Grenfell and National Westminster Bank for £40 million.

The school, founded 80 years ago by Mr Stanley Coryton Roberts, an Edwardian automobile enthusiast, is being sold by Sir Anthony Jacobs, who acquired it in 1973. Sir Anthony had hoped the company would stay in the family, but decided to sell after his son settled in the

US. The Jacobs family is retaining its other businesses, the Spud-U-Like fast food chain and a business aircraft operator.

The management, led by Mr Paul Massey, the chief executive, beat off rival offers from car manufacturers and leasing companies anxious to win BSM's captive market for 4,500 cars a year. Mr Massey said the company will continue to use the Mini Metro and had worked on the development of the new model.

The buyout funding consists of £11.5 million in equity and £23.5 million in debt, while the Jacobs family will retain £5 million in convertible shares. The management stands to win up to 20 per

Country Casuals plans to grow

JAMES GRAY



Mr John Shannon, managing director of Country Casuals, with two of the very dumb helpers who are to aid the company's expansion plans. Mr Shannon announced that the fashion retailer - the subject of a £12.5 million management buy-in from Coats Vytella a year

ago - is to open 10 new stores this year. There is scope for a further 50 shops taking the total to more than 200, he said.

The business made a pre-tax loss of £1.15 million for the 13 months to January 1990 compared with profits of £450,000 for the 12 months to December

1988. Turnover rose from £22.9 million to £28.4 million and the operating profits were £485,000 up from £461,000. Tunclass, the buy-in vehicle, made a pre-tax profit for the 11 months to January of £378,000. The group's debt is down from £10.3 million to £5 million.

Eurotunnel to meet on '£2bn' cost

By Matthew Bond

THE full board of Eurotunnel is to meet this week to consider new estimates of costs for completing the Channel tunnel. Eurotunnel refused to comment on reports that it would be seeking as much as £2 billion.

As recently as January, Mr Alastair Morton, its then co-chairman, insisted that a further £1.5 billion would finish the job, which Eurotunnel was then estimating would cost a total £7.2 billion.

But M. André Bénard, Eurotunnel's chairman, indicated last month that the company would need far more. Costs appear to be edging past the £7.6 billion that TML, the tunnel's builder, estimated towards the £8 billion that specialists advising the project's banking backers suggested. Shares in Eurotunnel dropped 7p to 588p, held up by hopes that the high-speed rail link to London would now go ahead.

Since January, Eurotunnel has been operating with temporary funds of £400 million, advanced by the syndicate of 208 banks under a waiver of Eurotunnel's original financing agreement. Under this, Eurotunnel is supposed to have funds at all times to meet the expected completion costs.

Details of the refinancing package - which would replace the temporary waiver - had been expected next week, but could now be delayed.

The sharp increase in the amount Eurotunnel is seeking suggests it is now taking the £400 million of disputed claims from TML far more seriously and is making full provision for them.

Midsummer U-turn on bid

By Stephen Leather

MIDSUMMER Leisure, the pub, snooker and discotheque group, is recommending its shareholders to reject the previously agreed all-paper offer from European Leisure, the entertainment company.

The decision is a U-turn for the company directors, who welcomed the bid when it was launched this month. Last week, the directors said they were withdrawing their sup-

port for the bid, which, when first made, valued their company at about £90 million.

European Leisure is offering 144 new shares and 50 preference shares, or £50 cash, for every 100 Midsummer shares.

European Leisure shares were 80p at the time the bid was made on April 2, valuing the offer at 175p for every Midsummer share. But after the bid was announced, European

Leisure shares plunged to 60p. Yesterday, European Leisure shares closed at 72p, up 14p, while Midsummer shares were unchanged at 122p.

Midsummer directors say they "no longer believe that the combination of Midsummer Leisure and European Leisure will command the confidence and support of the stock market."

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bowater Industries aims to cancel shares

BOWATER Industries, the packaging and printing group, plans to redeem and cancel its 4.35 per cent preference shares, change its name, and seek authority to buy in its ordinary shares in the market. The group wants to drop "Industries" from its name, and is seeking shareholders' permission to be able to buy up to 5 per cent of its issued share capital should market conditions dictate.

Bowater also wants to redeem its 4.35 per cent preference share capital by offering holders 96p cash a preference share. This would cost £7.09 million. Bowater says the preference offer is 81.1 per cent above the middle market price of 53p on April 9, and that the shares are expensive to administer and impose inflexible requirements on the company.

Buy for Brent Chemicals

BRENT Chemicals International has bought Janssen Hasenochter, a private West German company, for £1.8 million cash. Janssen makes solvent-based laminating adhesives and ultraviolet varnishes used in the printing and packaging industries. Its pre-tax profits, after adjusting for non-recurring directors' fees, were £430,000 for the year ending last June.

Triefus profit up by 60%

PRE-TAX profits at Triefus, the diamonds-to-engineering group, advanced by 60 per cent to £2.57 million in the year to end-December. Turnover climbed by 9.6 per cent to £32.3 million. Earnings per share rose by 40 per cent to 12.96p, and the final dividend is improved to 2p (1p), making 4p (3p) for the year. Shareholders will have the option of taking the dividend in shares.

Thompson doubles

THOMPSON Clive Investments, which provides venture capital for unlisted companies, more than doubled pre-tax profits, from £224,000 to £454,000, in 1989. Earnings per share trebled from 0.9p to 2.7p and there is a dividend of 2p (nil). The fully diluted net asset value rose by 8.2 per cent to 177.1p a share.

Gross revenue advanced by 41.6 per cent to £1.18 million. TCI said that £734,000 had been invested in nine companies since the year-end. It realized a gain of £130,000 from last month's sale of its investment in Emerald City Software.

Profits rise at Havelock

HAVELOCK Europa, the Scottish shop-fitting group, made profits before tax and exceptional items for the 36 weeks to last December of £312,000 (£52,000 for the 52 weeks to April, 1989). Turnover was £32.8 million (£49.6 million). Earnings per share rose to 1.6p (1.4p) and the final dividend of 2.5p is equivalent to last year's total of 3.6p.

J Smurfit in \$120m deal

JEFFERSON Smurfit is buying Golden State Newsprint and Pacific Recycling from Giant Group, of California, in a deal worth up to \$120 million. Under the terms of the deal, Smurfit will pay \$95 million cash for the equity capital of the two companies, and a further \$25 million cash depending on production capacity at Golden State.

Yale and Valor sale

YALE and Valor, the security to heating appliances group, has sold its catering equipment division to management for £8.5 million. The buyout, led by Mr Robin Clark, the division's managing director, includes Moorwood Vulcan, Jacksons, Oliver Toms and Sadia Refrigeration, all of which were profitable and, combined, contributed about £22 million to group turnover.

Mr Tony Marson, Yale and Valor's finance director, said the proceeds from the disposal would initially be used to reduce interest costs and bring down gearing.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings April 17
Last Dealings May 4
Last Declaration July 19
For Settlement July 30
Call options were taken out on 17/4/90. Underwritten, Bridgford, Suite Mining, PLC, Gifford Resources, Next, Pricer, Parfitt, Put & Cash Terms.

TEMPUS

McKechnie upholds tradition



Battering down the hatches: Jim Butler, chairman of McKechnie, flanked by Michael Ost, chief executive, (left) and Stuart Moberley, finance director

McKECHNIE is proud to be one of the few engineering groups which managed to maintain dividends throughout the last recession in 1981 and 1982. That policy continues as light engineering runs into heavy weather again, with the interim dividend held at 5p despite pre-tax profits falling from £17.3 million to £12.7 million in the six months to end-January.

The group is perhaps even more exposed than the average metal-basher to the economic cycle because of the proportion of its metal and plastic products that find their way into the building and automotive industries.

Its own estimates suggest an operating profits shortfall in the half year of between £5 million and £6 million. Some £2 million to £2.5 million of this comes from customer de-stocking, mainly in Britain. British Telecom, one of McKechnie's biggest customers for plastic products, is trying to shorten its stockholding from six to two months.

Another £500,000 apiece can be blamed on McKechnie's own decision to de-stock and on redundancy and reorganization costs. A rag-bag of other factors, including a New Zealand dock strike and a slowdown in the US and South Africa, accounted for another £2 million to £2.5 million in lost profits.

The near-recession for which McKechnie is battering down the hatches — 10 per cent of the workforce gone and perhaps as much as 5 per cent still to go — has its advantages, however, in the form of "fire sale" acquisitions of struggling small companies.

But the group's cautious approach to the future is exemplified by its decision to halve current-year capital spending to about £10 million, giving little hope of earnings growth in the short-term even though seasonal factors will boost second-half profits.

McKechnie will probably make about £30 million pre-tax this year, putting the shares on a multiple of more than nine times, a little dear given the low quality of earnings compared with elsewhere in the sector. Recently-revived bid talk looks unlikely, given the perceived strength of the management.

EIS Group

EIS, the specialist engineering group, is a market paradox. Profits and dividends have risen for 19 years on the trot — yet since January the share price has done nothing but slide.

The twentieth year of profits and dividend growth looms ahead, yet, relative to the market, the shares are at their lowest in five years.

The company made its first serious overseas venture in 1984, but now has a family of 19 overseas subsidiaries, responsible for 48 per cent of

total earnings — so there is little fear of cold economic British winds holding EIS back.

EIS made pre-tax profits of £11.9 million in 1989, a 24.7 per cent increase, which, despite the dilution of the April rights issue, still sees net earnings rise by 12 per cent to 27.6p a share. The final dividend of 7.7p (6.9p), payable on July 6, makes 10.45p (9.35p).

The profits advance was once again due to a mixture of organic and acquired growth and was helped by a further improvement in the fluid seals and power transmission couplings division and a strong performance by process equipment.

Both advances were sufficient to offset a fairly flat year for aircraft and precision engineering.

So far in 1990, profits are ahead of the same period a year ago and the strong marketing and product links

with the Soviet Union in particular and the Eastern bloc in general are increasingly coming into their own.

Meanwhile, the balance sheet remains strong with net cash at the year-end of £12.5 million clearly poised for further acquisitions — preferably abroad, but also at home should the right opportunity arise.

If this is to be the twentieth year of growth, then pre-tax profits of about £14 million should be possible, to put the shares, at 285p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 9.2, backed by an historic yield of 4.9 per cent. EIS will not always be so cheap.

Michael Peters

Is the decade of design over? To look at the share price of Michael Peters, the USM design and communications group, it would appear that the design bonanza which charac-

terized the past 10 years has ground to a halt.

The shares have tumbled from more than 100p to just 18p and the business is looking as sick as some of its old retail clients. The group made a pre-tax loss of £2.94 million in the six months to December compared with profits of £1.07 million.

Turnover rose from £18 million to £23.1 million but the business made an operating loss of £1.55 million.

Exceptional reorganization costs swallowed another £639,000 and the interest charge was £749,000, up from £167,000.

The loss per share was 16p compared with earnings of 5.1p. There is no interim dividend. Borrowings are topping £9 million and the group is looking for new equity finance to help reduce these.

But Michael Peters believes it has taken the right steps to get the business back into shape.

Spectrum Communications, which stages promotional events and conferences, is being sold to its management for £3.7 million and the company is in negotiations about the sale of HTI, the US business which provides architectural and design services to North American department stores and which is making sizeable losses.

HTI and Spectrum were both acquired in 1988 for an initial £7.6 million, and while the Spectrum sale looks a reasonable one and will reduce debts by about £2.3 million, it is unlikely that the group will achieve the \$10 million it paid for HTI.

Warburgs is conservatively estimating that the group will make a loss of between £3.5 million and £4 million for the year.

The shares may have reached rock bottom but, until the sale of HTI is finalized and the financial situation is clarified, they should be avoided.

CU forms an alliance with Japanese insurer

By Neil Bennett

TOKIO Fire and Marine, Japan's largest non-life insurer, has taken a 3 per cent stake in Commercial Union, the British insurance group, as part of an alliance between the companies.

Tokio recently bought 12.3 million shares in CU, which in turn has bought 3.4 million shares in Tokio, less than 1 per cent of the capital. The alliance, announced at CU's annual meeting, will allow the

two to swap risk information and training facilities.

Mr Peter Foster, CU's group financial controller, said neither side was planning to increase its stake. The agreement "cements the relationship we have had with Tokio for a long time", he said.

CU hopes to use Tokio's risk information to expand in the Far East, which in 1989 produced £20 million in premium income.

Eagle Trust sells firms in £1 deals

By Martin Waller

EAGLE Trust, the mini-conglomerate which is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has made further disposals as part of the tidying-up now taking place under the chairman, Mr David James.

It has sold Unilate and KSD, which make and distribute kitchen and bathroom furniture, to three former directors for a nominal sum of £1 in each case.

It is retaining property worth £1.4 million, against which it has written off £2.53 million of the companies' debts to Eagle Trust.

The businesses being sold, as currently structured, lost £330,000 in 1989 and are forecast to lose another £249,000 this year.

The businesses had in aggregate a deficiency of assets of £706,000.

Borland bounces back to \$15m

By Philip Pangalos

BORLAND International, the computer software company which is based in California but quoted on the USM, reported pre-tax profits of \$15.5 million for the year to end-March, compared with a loss of \$2.77 million.

The company benefited from extensive restructuring — which led to reduced costs — and a good second half, which was boosted by strong performances from Quattro Pro, Borland's new spreadsheet package, and Paradox, which is the database management programme.

Earnings per share jumped to 99.9 cents, while fully-diluted earnings stood at 94 cents, compared with a loss of 9.4 cents.

Once again, there is no dividend. Revenues climbed by 25 per cent to \$113.3 million, with the US accounting for about 75 per cent. The

cost of revenues was cut by 9 per cent to \$24.7 million. There was an interest credit of \$528,000, compared with a charge of \$845,000 last time.

Mr Philippe Kahn, the chairman, attributed the recovery to the strong demand for Quattro Pro, which began shipping in the third quarter.

He said that fourth-quarter revenues benefited from domestic sales to Lotus 1-2-3 users who upgraded to the more powerful, graphics-oriented Quattro Pro — which has now been translated into foreign languages.

Mr Kahn also said that Paradox sales in the final quarter were the highest since the current version began shipping about a year ago.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of \$25 million for the current year. The shares eased by 8p to 985p on the news.

Airbus Industrie 'in profit by 1993'

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE European aircraft-making consortium, Airbus Industrie, should be making a profit by 1993 — two years earlier than predicted, according to its managing director, Mr Jean Pierson.

Mr Pierson told the Aviation Club in London that he had predicted the consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, would be in profit by 1995.

"Well, I was wrong" he said. "We will be profitable before then."

"When in 1993 the annual output of Airbus Industrie exceeds 200 aircraft, that is a turnover in excess of \$12 billion a year — over a billion dollars a month — we are going to become a profitable enterprise. Britain, through BAe will do very well indeed."

Airbus has been criticized by American trade officials and the rival manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas for allegedly hiding the true profit and loss of the company and of accepting big subsidies from governments. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute between them are continuing with little sign of a conclusion acceptable to both sides.

Mr Pierson yesterday, however, put forward a strong defence of the consortium. The aircraft manufacturing industry, he said, is a very long-term business activity. "It is capital intensive and massive up-front investment is required to develop, as we have done, a complete family of aircraft," he said.

"It will have taken us, as it has Boeing, just under 20 years to offer aircraft that cover the full range of airline needs. The four partners in Airbus Industrie have now made this massive investment. The returns, and they will be rich indeed, lie ahead of them."

He admitted that during the build up the consortium was not making a profit. They were, however, creating wealth, he said. "Profits are now within reach. Profits to repay all the efforts that have gone in over those 20 years."

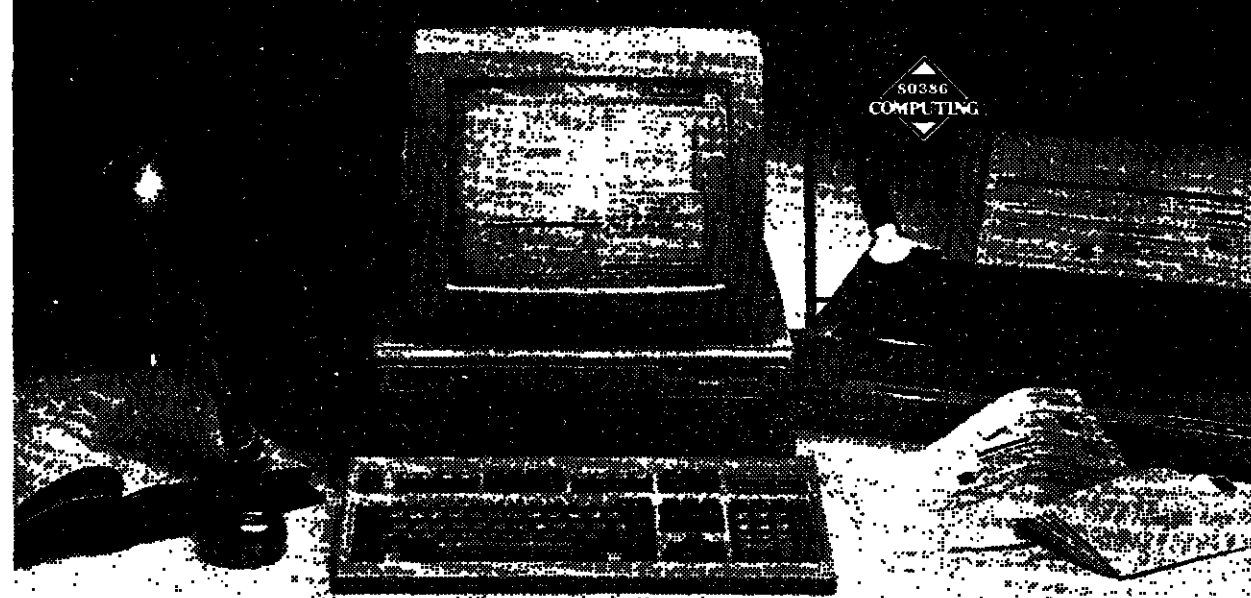
Airbus now has a backlog of 812 aircraft firmly ordered, which represents more than five years of work.

"The A312 which was launched only last November has become a major sales success already," Mr Pierson said. "This programme, I can assure you, is funded entirely by the Airbus Industrie partnership. We have approached the financial markets to raise money for this programme and the response has been overwhelming."

Another new aircraft in the "family" of jets being produced at Toulouse, the A330, will have Rolls-Royce engines, which will mean that the British content will rise to 55 per cent.

"At \$94 million an aircraft we foresee a great many of them being sold and that's a lot of good news for the British Exchequer," Mr Pierson said.

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Managers buy Del Monte division in \$375m deal

By Melissa Wittstock

DEL MONTE Corporation, the processed food and canned fruit group bought out from RJR Nabisco last January for \$1.48 billion, is selling its European division in a \$375-million deal backed by Charterhouse, the investment bank.

The new company, Del Monte Foods International, will hold the exclusive licence to use the Del Monte brand name on any of its processed foods in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The rights to the Del Monte name for fresh produce, however, are held by Polly Peck International, which acquired the fresh fruit operations for \$875 million last September from RJR Nabisco, which was taken private last year in the world's biggest leveraged buyout at the height of the junk bond craze.

Finance for the latest deal, which took just three months to arrange despite turbulence in the debt market, is comprised of \$136 million worth of equity, \$80 million of mezzanine finance and \$212.6 million of senior debt, which includes acquisition debt as well as working capital. The equity element, representing

about one-third of the buyout funds, has been jointly underwritten by the £200 million Second Charterhouse Buyout Fund, the £120 million Charterhouse European Partners and the £256 million US-based Charterhouse Equity Partners. The debt has been arranged by Charterhouse Bank and has been fully underwritten by a syndicate of international banks, including NatWest, Union Bank of Switzerland, the Nippon Bank and Bank of America.

Mr Leon Allen, president and chief executive of Del Monte Foods International, said he was "happy with the price," which represents a historic multiple of seven times operating profits.

The company, which made operating profits of \$48 million on turnover of \$351 million in the year to end-November, 1989 said interest payments resulting from the deal will be more than two times covered by operating income.

Mr Allen said the company plans to expand operations in France and Spain, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the USSR. He said it would also expand sales through "aggressive" new product development.



Happy with the price: Leon Allen yesterday

IEP to meet big Vickers investors

By Matthew Bond

SIR Ron Brierley's IEP Securities is to meet the 10 leading institutional shareholders in the engineering group Vickers this week in an attempt to win support for its demerger proposals.

IEP wrote to Vickers' shareholders yesterday with details of the restructuring proposals which, if accepted, would see Rolls-Royce Motor Cars demerged as an independent company. IEP's plan, announced last month, is due to be voted on at Vickers' annual meeting a week tomorrow.

IEP is Vickers' largest shareholder with 18.6 per cent. Mr Stuart Mitchell, IEP managing director, said the 10 institutions it is to meet account for about 35 per cent of Vickers' ordinary shares. They include Standard Life, long-time holder of a 5.7 per cent stake.

Mr Mitchell believes the argument for demerging Rolls-Royce is compelling. "Unfortunately the market appears to rate Vickers on a lowest common denominator basis, rating it on its poorest businesses not its best. The premium value of Rolls-Royce is hidden within the complex conglomerate structure of Vickers."

"The tactic now is to convince people of our case." Top of the list of points IEP wishes to communicate is the fact that a demerger is not the same as a sale.

Its proposals add up to a package worth potentially 255p a share to existing shareholders, with shares in a demerged Rolls-Royce worth 110p if, as IEP forecasts, the shares were rated at 12 times earnings, rather than the eight times earnings that Vickers' shares stood at before Sir Ron's initiative.

The IEP document questions the decision to acquire the engines group Cosworth, bought on a multiple of 20 times earnings. The £163 million deal is also to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Vickers shares closed yesterday unchanged at 223p, as IEP warned that it could see no reason for them to stay above 200p if its proposals are voted down.

Vickers' chairman, Sir David Plastow, had nothing to add to the criticisms he levelled at the IEP proposals in a letter to shareholders last week.

A Vickers spokesman said: "We feel that this document is a cover for Brierley's short-term aim to break up Vickers."

COMMENT

The Bank helps B&C to avoid hara-kiri

British & Commonwealth is in financial trouble far deeper than was realized. Write-offs look set to top £600 million in the 1989 accounts. This compares with a market capitalization which has slumped from almost £2 billion at its peak to £200 million and pre-tax profits of £122 million in the previous year.

What went wrong? All the blame cannot be laid at Atlantic Computer's door because asset sales started last year and shares have never been anywhere near the altitude of pre-Black Monday. Shareholders must await the full trading results before the picture becomes clearer.

Chairman Sir Peter Thompson and chief executive John Gunn put on brave faces yesterday and made reassuring noises about the soundness of the rest of their businesses. This is very good news because if there were any more bad apples in the barrel, the banks would not be so patient about allowing B&C to conduct its own £750 million fire sale.

Once this is completed by the middle of next year, Gunn reckons there will be a debt load which can be supported by a smaller company. At the moment, banking covenants are in tatters, and but for the Bank of England striding in to make all parties toe the line, the market would have witnessed corporate hara-kiri yesterday instead of a steady-as-she-goes public relations exercise.

Gunn's policy of autonomy within B&C's many businesses has come unravelling. In March, B&C's management was reshuffled and Atlantic's top two executives shown the open door.

New auditors have been appointed and B&C can look forward to a few expensive lawsuits to try and win back some of its losses. However, like Ferranti, it will probably be more window-dressing rather than a serious attempt to recoup shareholders' cash.

Tunnel torment

The latest turn of events in the crab-like progress of Eurotunnel is enough to have shareholders reaching for the Valium. It appears that, yet again, the costs of completing the cross-Channel link have slipped since the group triumphantly concluded an agreement with its bankers and the contractors as recently as January.

The agreement emerged after a great deal of acrimony between Eurotunnel and the contracting consortium, Transmanche-Link, over the reasons for escalating costs, the extent of the overruns and who was responsible. So far as shareholders were concerned, the settling of most differences between the two factions paved the way for formal agreement with the 200-plus banks funding the project, to be announced in

the spring, and a rights issue later in the year to put up an extra cushion of equity for the comfort of the bankers.

Now it appears that the numbers have changed yet again and the original timetable may be scrapped. This could lead once again to Eurotunnel having to go cap in hand to its lenders for permission to draw down further tranches of the £5 billion in cash already earmarked for the project. Shareholders, meanwhile, may now face an even heavier dilution of their original equity than the £350 million-to-£400 million expected in January. But what has gone awry this time?

So far, there is no hard guidance from Eurotunnel. Others have suggested that the new overruns relate to higher interest rates, the need for a contingency fund in the event of unforeseen disasters and a need to provide for some of the £350 million of costs which are the subject of disputes with TML. Yet in January, Eurotunnel was indicating that these had been factored into the latest £7.2 billion overall costs.

Ironically, the further cost slippage comes at a time when overall prospects for the tunnel have been improving, through excellent drilling rates achieved by the contractors and the growing prospect that the British government will make a £1 billion lump sum contribution to a new rail link with London. But long-suffering shareholders are surely due an explanation — and soon.

Rover's new chapter

Rover's completion of its share swap with Honda marks the start of a new chapter in the chequered history of Britain's biggest independent car maker. It is also a potentially significant development for Rover's parent, British Aerospace, which was widely criticized over the purchase.

B&A is candid about the role Honda has played in Rover's survival. It is doubtful that the British company could have survived without the marriage of convenience fixed by Sir Michael Edwards when he realized that Rover had a gaping hole in its new product development planning and lacked both the money and the time to plug it.

Alone, Rover lacks the financial muscle and the shop-floor efficiency to compete in an industry increasingly dominated by giant corporations. In association with one of the strongest of those giants, the prospects are far more hopeful. The deal gives Honda an opportunity to meet its objectives within Europe, and Rover access to management techniques and up-to-date technologies essential if it is to carve an up-market niche in a cut-throat business.

Yorkshire Radio in share slide

By Martin Walker

YORKSHIRE Radio Network, the USM-listed radio station, saw its share price collapse, prompting an abrupt slide in values elsewhere in the sector, when it announced a sharp fall in advertising revenue so far this year.

The shares dropped below 80p at one stage before ending at 82p, a fall of 50p, valuing the company at £7.7 million. YRN came to the market last August at 200p, which valued it at £18.7 million.

It announced in December that it had barely beaten the profits forecast made at the time of the float because of a "virtual collapse" in national advertising revenues.

Mr Michael Mallett, the chairman, says the first quarter of 1990 saw a slump of 17 per cent in total revenue on the previous year. The worst fall was in March, when national, as opposed to local, revenue fell by 45 per cent.

April had shown some improvement, but half-year figures to end-March would be "substantially below" those of a year previously. Analysts now believe interim profits of about £300,000 (previously £690,000) are likely, while Yorkshire is unlikely to make £1 million in the full year.

The bad news hit other radio shares, with Capital Radio off 19p at 135p and Chiltern Radio down 30p at 190p.

Miss Anne Fenelon, analyst at CCF Laurence Prust, said regional advertising spending on radio varied enormously from area to area, although this was not necessarily the reason for the apparent collapse at Yorkshire. "It isn't that the money isn't there — it's due probably to local factors, but also to the quality of the sales force," she said.

NP station wins DoE approval

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

NATIONAL Power, largest of the two power producers being created out of the old Central Electricity Generating Board, is likely to establish another five environment-friendly and economical gas-fired power stations after approval for its first such station at Killingholme, south Humberside.

The £250 million Killingholme combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) station, due to be completed in the autumn of 1993, will initially have a capacity of 600 megawatts, but the planning consent received yesterday from the Department of Energy would allow the site to go to 1,000 megawatts.

It will take the entire output of the CCGT gasfield, which is being developed by Total, Canadian Oxy and Ultramar off the Yorkshire coast. Development of a platform and a

new pipeline for the field is likely to cost about £200 million.

The short list for the construction contract has been narrowed to two, both with a British element. One is John Brown Engineering, which uses General Electric of America technology, and the other ABB, the Swedish-Swiss partnership of Asca and Brown Boveri and with which Britain's NEI is linked.

ABB would head up the Killingholme contract if this group were successful.

Gas-fired stations are "significantly" cheaper to operate than coal-fired ones, as well as giving fewer emission problems, so five further national stations being investigated by National Power are likely to be needed, said Mr John Baker, the power group's chief executive.

How holds payout as profit dips

By Our City Staff

HOW Group, the construction services group, reports a slide in taxable profits from £6.39 million to £5.18 million for 1989. But the dividend is maintained at 2.25p.

Despite some slowdown in the construction industry, How Engineering Services has gone into 1990 with a good workload. Start-up costs of How Design and Management, the company's project management company, were heavy although within budget.

HDM has a number of contracts to undertake and is expected to be profitable in 1990. Building services plants have increased its volume and profits.

Despite the slowdown in housebuilding, the company expects growth in 1990. Progress at How Hire and Service was slowed by high interest rates. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Rugby chief to lead ECC

By Our City Staff

MR ANDREW Teare, aged 47, managing director of Rugby Group, the building materials business, is to be the surprise new chief executive of ECC Group.

ECC, formerly known as English China Clays, has been looking for a new chief executive for about eight months. The present incumbent, Mr Stan Dennison, who will be 60 next month, is retiring because of ill health.

Mr Teare will join on July 1 — some time after ECC presents its interim figures, due in the middle of next month.

Lord Chilver, the chairman, warned shareholders at the annual meeting in February of

falling demand, which he said would severely affect profits.

One analyst said: "Despite the initial surprise, it's a logical move for someone like Andrew Teare, who is known for turning companies around."

Mr Teare said: "ECC is a bigger company than Rugby — it's a more international business. I've been here for 7½ years and we've made great progress. I'm still a youngish person, looking forward to a fresh challenge."

ECC was guarded about Mr Teare's new salary, but the latest accounts show he was probably earning more at Rugby than Mr Dennison at ECC — the highest-paid directors were on £165,200 and £142,700 respectively. He is therefore likely to have been offered about £200,000, along with an attractive share option package.



Andrew Teare: surprise

Commonwealth declines

AS British & Commonwealth shares were suspended at 53p yesterday, down from their high of more than £5 a piece, a number of one-time partners of Laing & Cruckshank, the stockbroker, were left with nothing to do but count their losses. Originally given a mixture of Mercantile House shares and loan notes when they sold their partnership, they ended up with B&C shares and convertible preference stock when the latter, in turn, bought L&C. While some of the 50 or so partners cashed in their shares a year or two ago, a number of others are still shareholders and have watched the value of their investment steadily dwindle. One erstwhile partner, who still works for the firm, but asked for his name to be withheld, tells me that he has lost about £400,000. "But it's only a paper loss and I took the decision some time ago to stick with the shares until the bitter end," he said. "If they come back from suspension at around 9p I might even buy a couple of hundred thousand more, for my personal account, on a two- to three-year view." Most of Laing's former partners still held some stock, he said, but were, by and large, taking a philosophical view of their predicament. "I'm a dealer," he said. "This is our life. I buy and sell, and it's part of my job. If I have to write off my entire investment, then I have to write it off. It's only a small part of my total investments."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Christmas in spring

ALWAYS a man to stand out in a crowd, Brian Winterlood, founder and boss of Winterlood Securities, the USM market-maker, is planning to hold his annual Christmas party... on April 26. With invitations to the thrash, at the Institute of Accountants, due to go out shortly to about 300 or so Stock Exchange

dealers and members. Winterlood tells me: "We don't hold it at Christmas because everybody else does, and in the end, it doesn't mean anything." Clearly now something of a tradition, last year he held the party in May. "We've brought it forward simply because we were fed up with waiting for it."

Pink poser

NEWSPAPER boys in the stockbroker belt, who already find Sunday times enough, could soon find their week-days a weighty struggle too. And readers who spend their Sunday mornings drowsing the colour supplements over a



"Their computers are on the blink"

waste-paper bin to shake out the inserts will be equally alarmed. For Pearson, the publishing, merchant banking and leisure group, has been investing heavily in inserting machinery for the "Pink Un".

Pearson's new managing director, Frank Barlow, who used to run the Financial Times, is delighted with the new toy. "We've got people queuing up to insert their annual reports," he enthuses. Perhaps that is why Pearson has not been lobbying the Stock Exchange to keep its requirement that issue prospectuses be advertised in national newspapers, which the SE intends to drop — to one, one would have thought, the FT's cost.

THE American magazine, Wyoming Trucker, has offered some advice which could be equally well applied this side of the Atlantic. To those readers facing an increasing mountain of unpaid bills, it says: "Send out a change of address card — and then don't move."

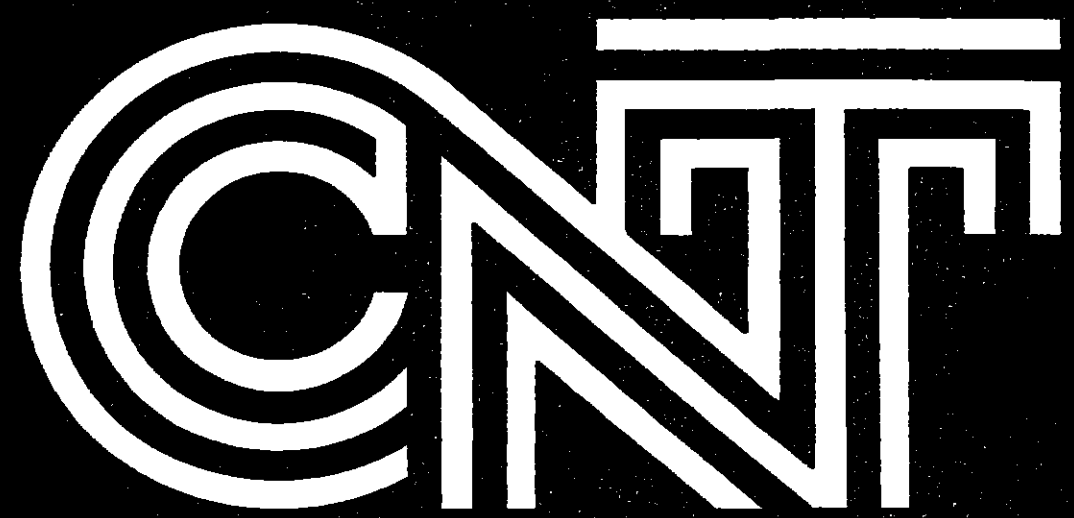
Carol Leonard

Solid rock at market

IF Tower Hamlets' planners give its redevelopment the go-ahead, the 12-acre site of the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market is expected to provide rich pickings for City archaeologists. Once the traders leave the market for their new site at Temple Mills, east of the capital, archaeologists will move in for what is expected to be an extensive dig. However, despite the long and colourful history associated with Spitalfields and the East End, the owners are not encouraging. The early demolition of a group of buildings at the Bishopsgate site allowed a limited amount of excavation to get under way last year. But the hoped-for traces of early Viking green-grocers or Roman fruiterers were somewhat thin on the ground. After four weeks' work, the most ancient thing they found on the site apparently was an Eddy Cochran record, circa 1962.

The 13,500 flight attendants of American Airlines, the largest US carrier, have posed a weighty problem for the airline. In a pending law suit, they have accused it of age and sex discrimination over its "grooming policy", which sets weight limits for men and women. Their union claims that America's weight tables are for small to medium-framed women, but for large-framed men. And the company does not increase its weight limits with age. American says being overweight can impede an attendant in case of emergency.

Carol Leonard



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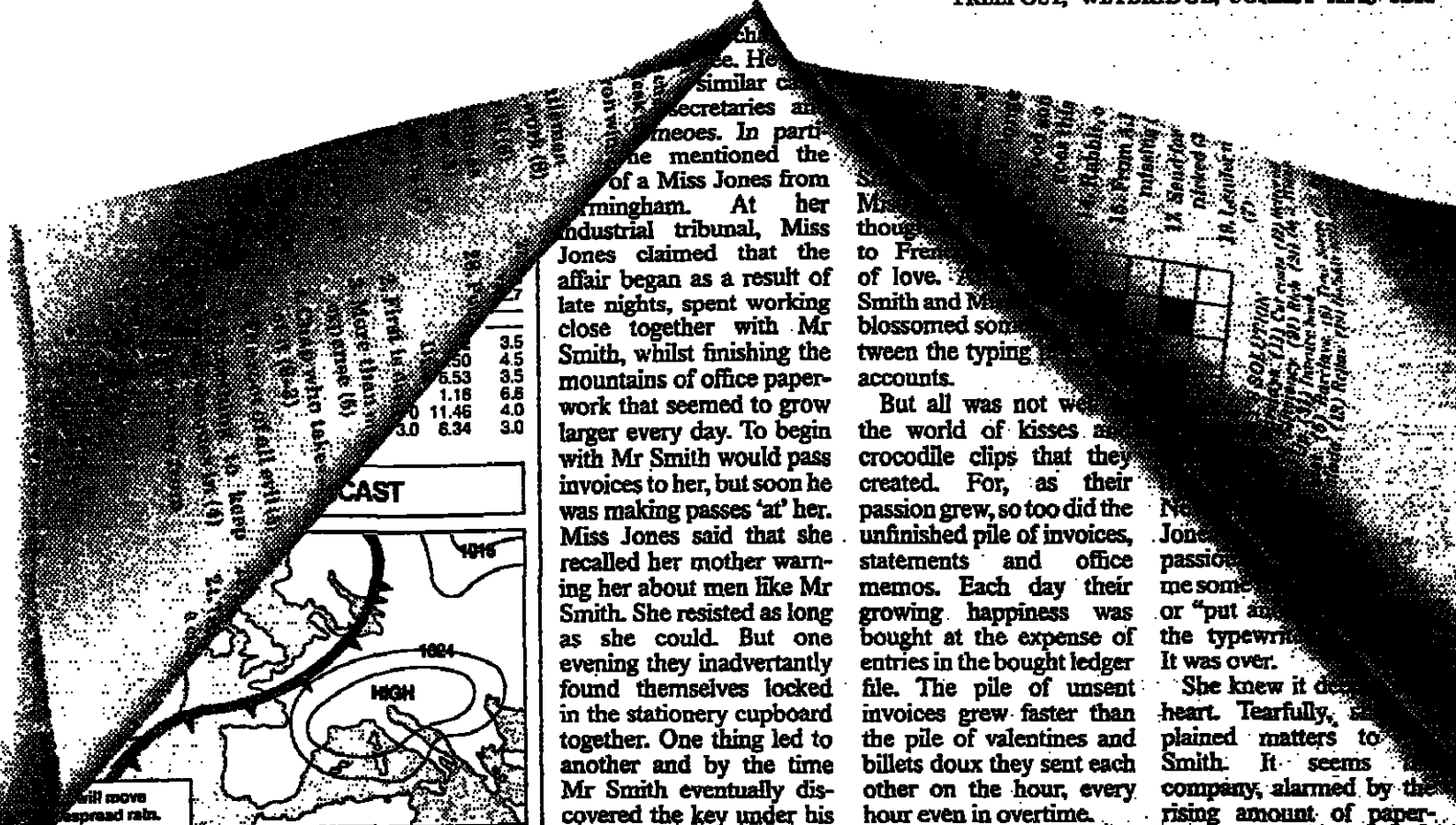
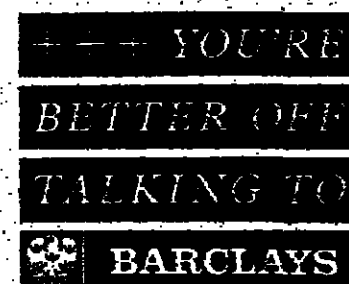
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Company

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FREEPOST, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY KT13 8BR.



Dai
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£8.0

By Melinda Wittstock

"Successful publishing in Britain is either very small or very big. Hobsons had embarked on a strategy to become big and got interrupted



He said a hearing date of June 11 had been set for 'Hobsons' action against the vendors of Bodytalk, the loss-making health magazine and exhibitions group it acquired in August 1988. Hobsons alleges that the financial position of Bodytalk was over-

Hobsons shareholders will be entitled to retain the final dividend of 7.7p.

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

Mezzanine finance, a recently-developed mix of debt and share warrants, is used in many management and leveraged buyouts, for which Wasserstein has become noted.

The UK Government's commitment to deregulation of Civil Air Transport in Europe has already brought considerable benefits, but the continuation of the anti-competitive and protectionist

policies of the US and UK benefits no-one, especially, the consumer.

Perpetual boards

From Mr Noel Falconer
Sir, Directors' contracts do

the privatization of British Gas, and a corrective put in the Articles. But B Gas promptly withdrew this.

require that the intruder meet costs of informing very many thousands of shareholders, and refuse to circulate this with other AGM papers.

This was appreciated before

Yours faithfully,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Stockport.

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World (free)	714.0	0.7	-15.3	0.8	-11.4	0.5	-14.5
EAFE (free)	135.4	0.0	-18.1	0.3	-11.8	-0.2	-15.2
EAFE (free)	1222.5	1.3	-20.9	1.2	-15.8	1.1	-20.1
Europe (free)	124.9	0.1	-22.1	0.4	-16.7	0.1	-21.3
Europe (free)	745.7	0.7	-1.9	0.5	-2.4	0.5	-0.8
Asia (free)	104.8	0.4	-1.2	0.4	-2.2	0.2	-0.6
N/Africa (free)	518.1	-0.3	-4.2	-0.5	-8.1	-0.2	-3.4
Nordic (free)	1503.7	0.4	-3.4	0.4	-3.9	0.2	-2.4
Pacific (free)	238.9	0.6	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.4	2.6
Pacific (free)	2860.5	-0.1	-32.9	0.4	-24.3	-0.3	-32.2
Far East (free)	3917.7	2.0	-32.3	1.9	-24.4	1.8	-31.6
Australia (free)	303.4	0.4	-12.6	0.1	-8.9	0.2	-11.7
Australia (free)	2185.0	1.2	-45.7	1.3	-48.1	1.0	-47.2
Belgium (free)	522.2	-0.3	-6.3	-0.1	-7.3	-0.5	-5.4
Canada (free)	928.5	-0.1	-12.0	-0.2	-10.8	-0.4	-11.1
Denmark (free)	1361.8	0.3	3.4	0.0	1.8	0.1	4.5
Finland (free)	103.8	0.0	-8.5	-0.7	-10.2	-1.0	-8.0
France (free)	143.1	0.1	-4.0	0.2	-4.3	-0.1	-3.0
France (free)	856.3	1.0	5.9	0.7	4.2	0.8	7.0
Germany (free)	989.9	1.1	7.9	0.8	8.4	0.9	9.0
Hong kong (free)	2852.8	1.1	6.1	0.8	7.0	0.8	7.2
Italy (free)	399.6	2.7	3.7	2.4	1.9	2.5	4.7
Japan (free)	4105.8	2.0	-38.4	2.0	-25.3	1.8	-32.8
Netherlands (free)	910.5	1.4	-3.7	1.1	-3.7	1.2	-2.7
New Zealand (free)	87.8	-0.3	-14.9	-0.2	-11.5	-0.5	-14.0
Norway (free)	1547.2	0.8	15.3	0.7	15.5	0.6	16.4
Spain (free)	270.5	0.8	15.8	0.7	16.0	0.5	17.0
Spain (free)	1958.4	0.3	-10.0	-0.1	-9.2	-0.2	-9.8
Spain (free)	231.2	0.9	-10.0	1.2	-14.3	1.1	-12.1
Sweden (free)	1589.2	0.5	-6.8	0.1	-3.3	0.3	-7.9
Switzerland (free)	227.9	0.8	-5.9	0.9	-8.2	0.6	-4.9
Switzerland (free)	871.7	0.8	-4.7	0.4	-6.8	0.4	-3.7
UK (free)	1383.0	0.2	-4.7	0.5	-6.4	0.0	-3.7
UK (free)	660.4	0.1	-8.4	0.1	-8.4	0.1	-7.5
USA (free)	485.8	-0.4	-3.6	-0.5	-2.6	-0.6	-2.5

[illegible]

Beneficial ownership will remain with you – the existing Vickers' shareholders.

*BASED ON VICKERS' SHARE PRICE PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF IEP'S PROPOSALS ON 8 MARCH 1990.

TOKYO

Prices end mixed on currency worries

(Reuler)

Kingfisher expected to renew bid for Dixons

asked the group's bankers to

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	534	CJ	544	Lloyds	1,053	Sears	1,516
Adco/Maz	232	Conkern	665	Lochrie Abb	192	Schwartz	2,678
Alco	723	Courtsville	685	Lorayne	787	Shell	1,576
Amsted	7,088	Delaney	565	Lucas	30	Siebo	1,611
Amstar	635	Dick	635	Mack	1,050	Siebert	1,611
Asa Foods	194	EOC	1,072	Mallin	1,103	Smith & N	611
ARGA	231	Enterprise	11	Maxwell Con	385	SO Beach	1,271
BAA	215	Faterra	2,241	MG Group	400	SK Sash	1,050
BAT	1,137	Flora	1,137	Milner	1,050	Star Wash	1,050
BTR	636	RO	1,295	MEPC	197	Strite Ltd	1,050
SAT	636	Gen Acc	131	Midland	1,695	Stro	1,050
Bay	1,445	Gen	8,317	Mid West	1,050	Strom Chert	1,050
Bayleys	1,445	Gen	8,317	Milner	1,050	Stroms	1,050
Beaz	152	Globe Inv	61	Nth Food	306	Stn Alanco	48
Bentley Int	313	Gwynedd	791	PAC	235	Stn Life	33
Bentley Int	313	Harle	238	Parson	235	Stn Life	33
Blue Circle	428	Grand Met	684	Pdington	571	T Group	4
BPC	3,576	GUS 'A'	54	Polly	1,405	Tarmac	55
BPC	3,576	GUS 'A'	54	Polly	1,405	Tarmac	55
BOB	189	GKN	131	Radical	1,907	Taylor & Lyde	13
BOB	189	GKN	131	Radical	1,907	Taylor & Lyde	13
Br Alro	505	Gunness	271	Racal Tele	824	TSC	1,025
Br Alro	505	Hamm 'A'	75	Rk Hovis	212	Tesbo	1,025
Br Alro	505	Hamm 'A'	75	Rk Hovis	212	Tesbo	1,025
Br Gas	3,255	Do Wts	357	R&C	186	Thorn Elm	17
Br Land	328	H & C	273	Redford	34	Tramelgr	37
Br Petrol	3,067	Heikler	285	Reed	503	TRF	37
Br Steel	1,685	Hewlett	1,670	Reynolds	829	Tring	28
Br Telecom	2,855	IMI	194	RMC GP	173	Unicrate	28
Burnell	105	ICI	1,221	Rtzy	378	Unilever	15
Burnell	105	ICI	1,221	Rtzy	378	Unilever	15
C&W	1,121	Kingfisher	101	Roby	3,482	Unilever	15
C&W	1,121	Lasmo	1,689	Royal Bank	284	Unilever	15
C&W	1,121	Lasmo	1,689	Royal Bank	284	Unilever	15
Carlton	916	Lag	434	Scott & N	551	Witney G	18
Carlton	916	Lag	434	Scott & N	551	Witney G	18

Mr Martin Hall, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, was not impressed. He

enabled them to recover.

Failures blamed on economy's 'chill wind'

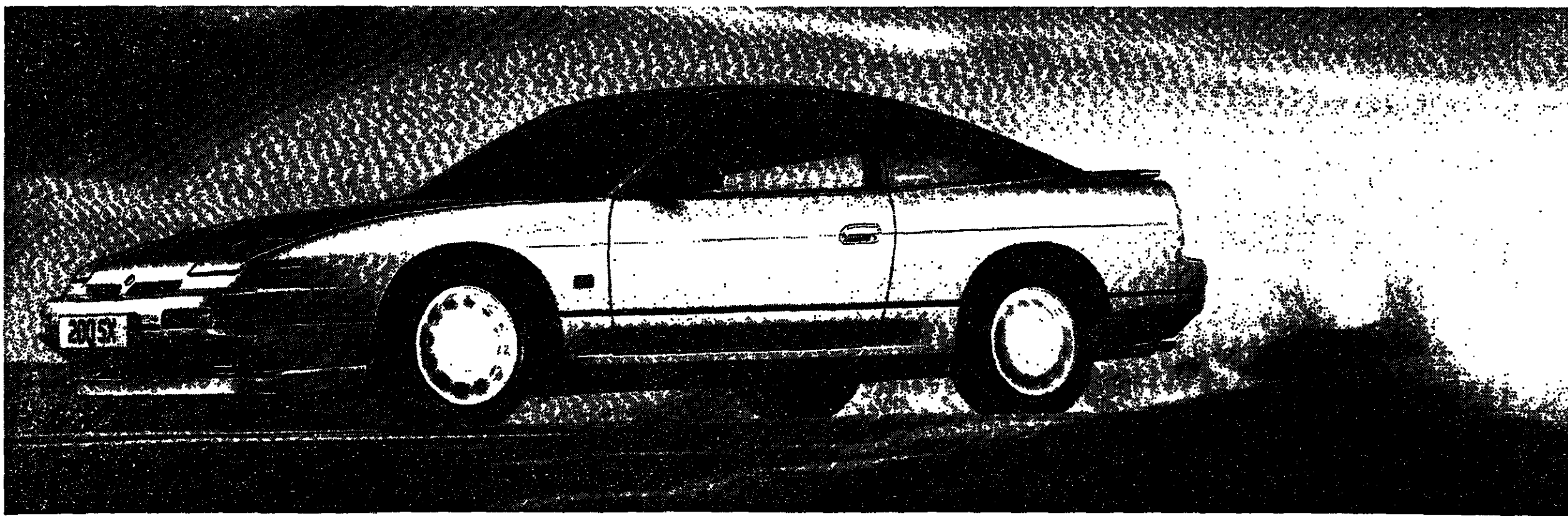
"Rent rises, the uniform business rate and the advent of the European single market will make the economic climate still harsher and could well make the increase yet steeper," he said.

build an office and commercial complex including a hotel

and shops. (AFP)

‘Brilliant new 200SX, Ferrari looks, Porsche pace’

Autocar & Motor

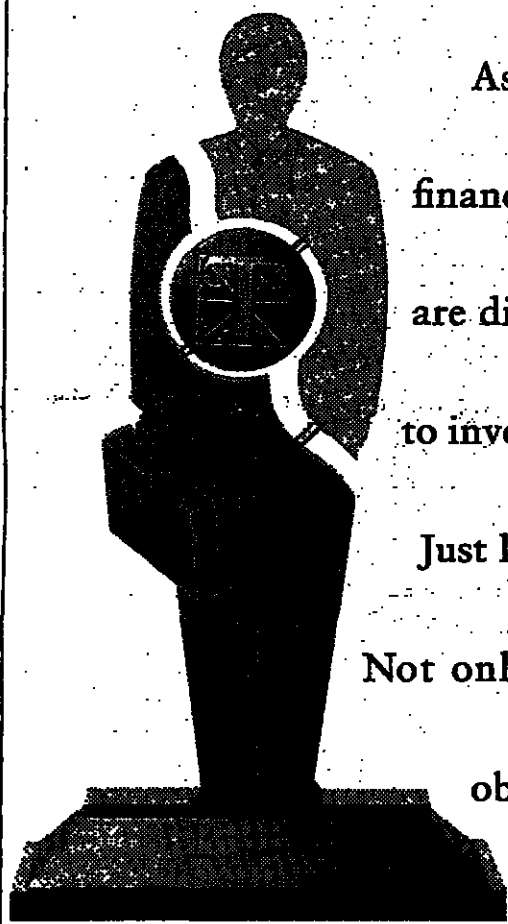


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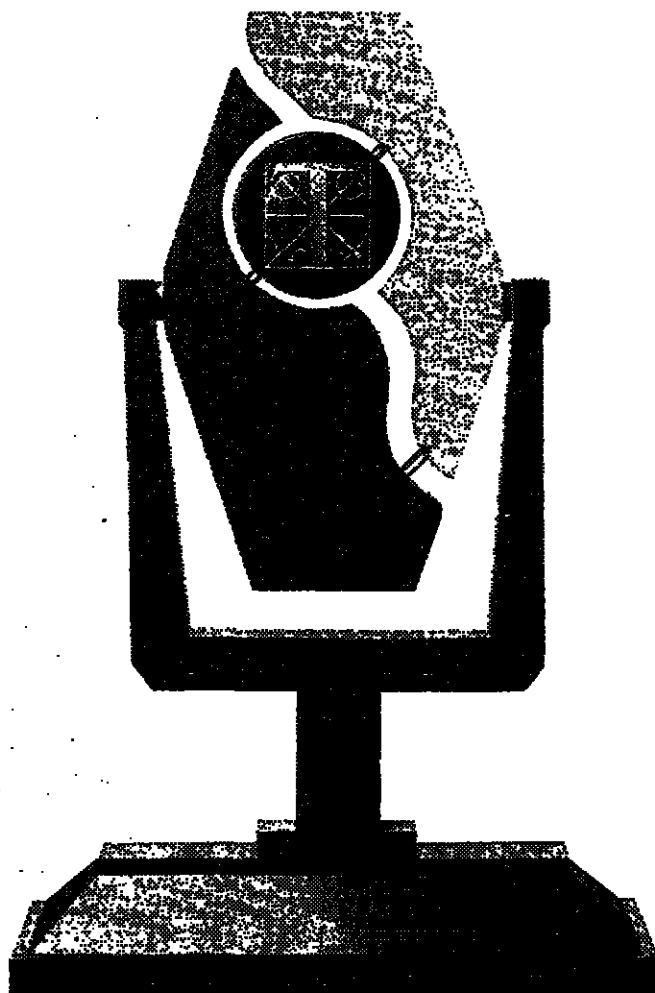
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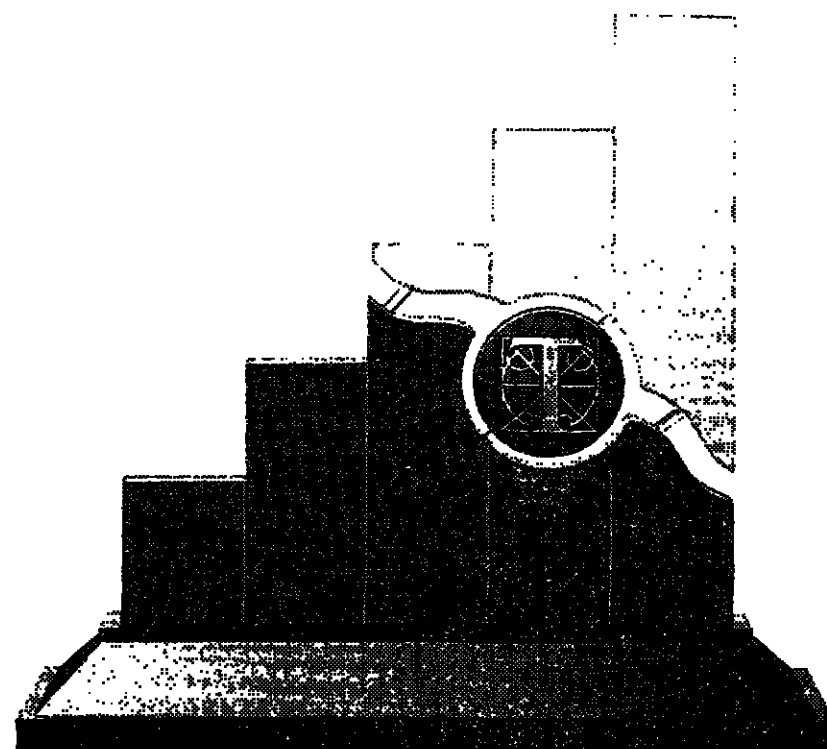
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Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Rechem	Industrial L-R	
2	General Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
3	CRN	Building Roads	
4	Romas	Industrial L-R	
5	Elvel	Industrial L-R	
6	BBA	Industrial A-D	
7	Freila	Industrial S-Z	
8	CH Ind	Industrial A-D	
9	Medica	Industrial L-R	
10	Prochem (22)	Food	
11	Hawley S. (22)	Industrial E-K	
12	Woolworths Retail	Chemicals Plus	
13	Beds Shop	Draperies Stores	
14	Canal plc	Transport	
15	Pease & Crompton	Property	
16	Rich-RS	Paper Print-Lith	
17	Power Corp	Property	
18	Lambert Horwath	Shoes, Leather	
19	Oliver Heags	Paper Print-Lith	
20	Kyle & Veeba	Industrial S-Z	
21	Braden Hill	Industrial A-D	
22	Calderon-Schwarz (22)	Food	
23	Dalrymple	Food	
24	Elx Data Process	Electronics	
25	Berkley Up	Building Roads	
26	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K	
27	Mowlem (Johal)	Building Roads	
28	Ranger	Oil Gas	
29	Comyn	Building Roads	
30	Harrison Croft (22)	Industrial E-K	
31	Fitch Lovell	Food	
32	Son TV	Leisure	
33	Swire Pacific A	Industrial S-Z	
34	Baker Harris	Property	
35	Fosco	Chemicals Plus	
36	Th. Raza	Draperies Stores	
37	P.E. International	Electronics	
38	Clifford Foods A	Food	
39	Son Furniture	Industrial S-Z	
40	Cable Wireless (22)	Electronics	
41	Securus Serv	Industrial S-Z	
42	Hudson Whampoa	Industrial E-K	
43	Shell (22)	Oil Gas	
44	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mrs Finola Sullivan, from Gravesend in Kent, Pamela Tompkins, from London, and Mrs Dorothy Torlesse, from Romsey in Hampshire. They will each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS				
1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
UNDATED				
INDEX-LINKED				
BANKS, DISCOUNT HP				

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares easier

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 9. Dealings end April 27. Contango day April 30. Settlement day May 8.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ea) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
BREWERIES				
BUILDING, ROADS				
FINANCE, LAND				
FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
FOODS				
HOTELS, CATERERS				
INDUSTRIALS A-D				
ELECTRICALS				
CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
DRAPERY, STORES				
OILS, GAS				
NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS				
MOTORS, AIRCRAFT				
TEXTILES				
SHOES, LEATHER				
TOBACCO				
TRANSPORT				
WATER				

Portfolio

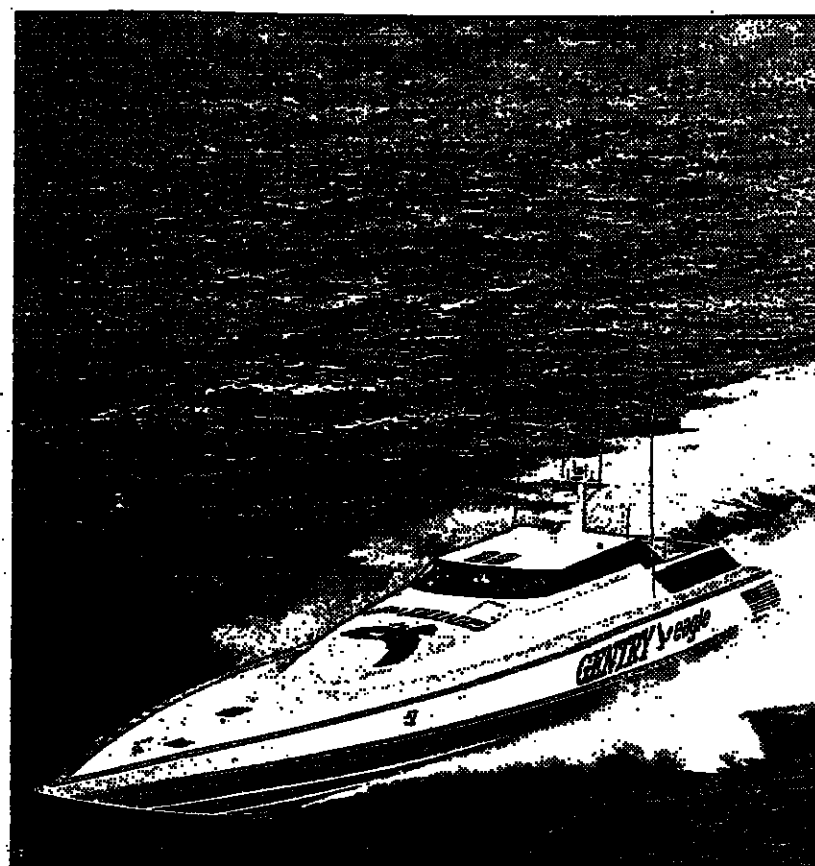
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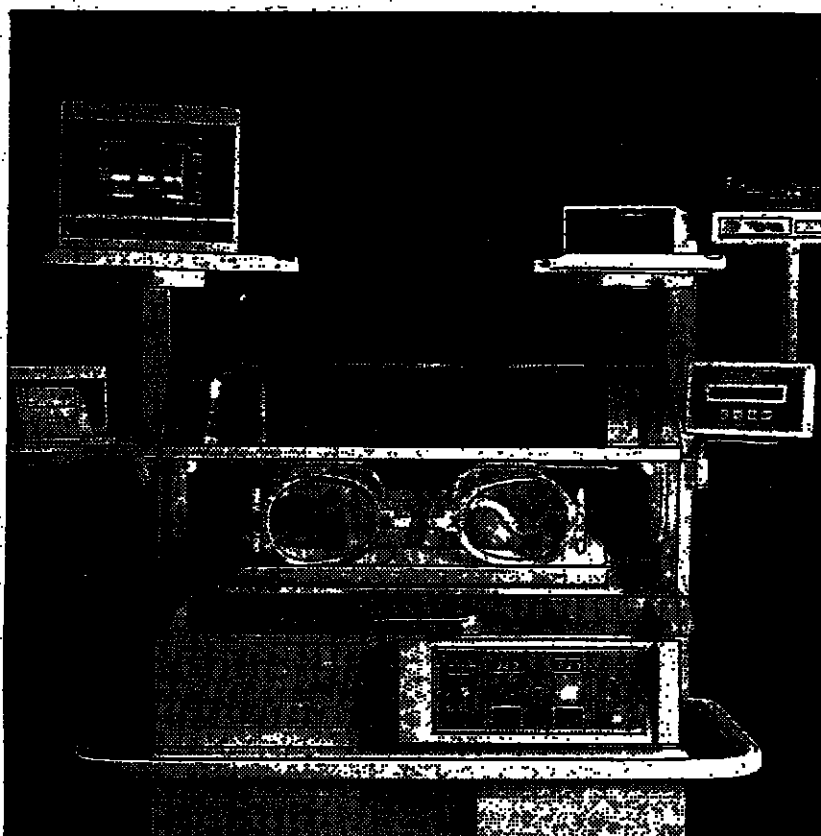
OVERSEAS TRADERS	
1989	1990
PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING	
PROPERTY	
SHOES, LEATHER	
TEXTILES	
TOBACCO	
TRANSPORT	
WATER	



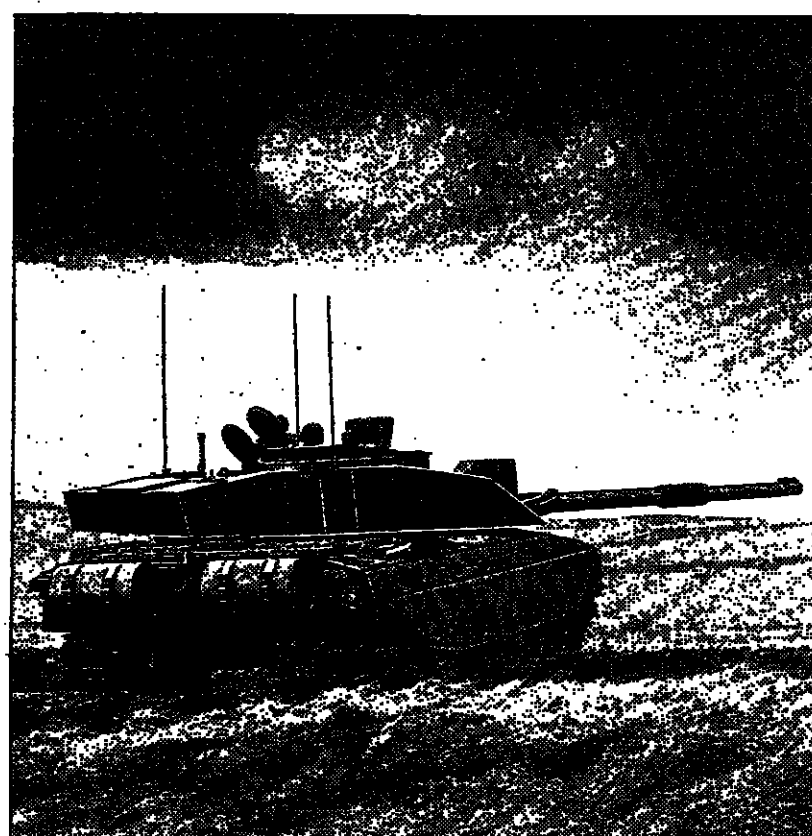
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car.



The Company
jet.



The Company
health check.



The Company
think tank.

At Vickers, we believe the quality of a company's products tells you something about the quality of its management.

Our products are an example of a successful management approach which brings added value and mutual benefit to Vickers and all its operating businesses.

We build the Rolls-Royce motor car - a universal byword for excellence.

Our recently-acquired subsidiary Cantieri Riva makes luxury powerboats which enjoy the same sort of reputation among the discriminating and the nautically-inclined.

Our marine interests include some of the most sophisticated civilian and defence engineering manufacturers in the world, including Sweden's KaMeWa, which provided the water jets for the Atlantic record-breaker Gentry Eagle.

Our Medical Division is the world leader in baby incubators as well as producing patient monitoring systems and diagnostic equipment. All fields in which quality of design and manufacture can often be - quite literally - matters of life or death.

Our aerospace components operations are among the tiny handful of companies in the world

equipped to create and shape the super-alloys on which modern aircraft engines depend.

And our Defence Systems Division, which numbers eighteen countries among its customers, is currently demonstrating Challenger 2 - the most advanced main battle tank in the world.

Vickers has established itself as a world leader in quality engineering through its strategy of building international businesses which have strong brands and premium products. But does our financial performance measure up to the quality of our products?

Judge for yourself.

Over the past six years, our pre-tax profits have grown steadily from £19.5 million to £83.6 million.

Earnings per share have risen with much the same consistency from 5.6p to 23.3p, a compound annual growth rate of 27%.

And the future looks no less encouraging.

In an increasingly volatile business environment, there's no safeguard more effective than having - and being recognised as having - the highest standards in the market.

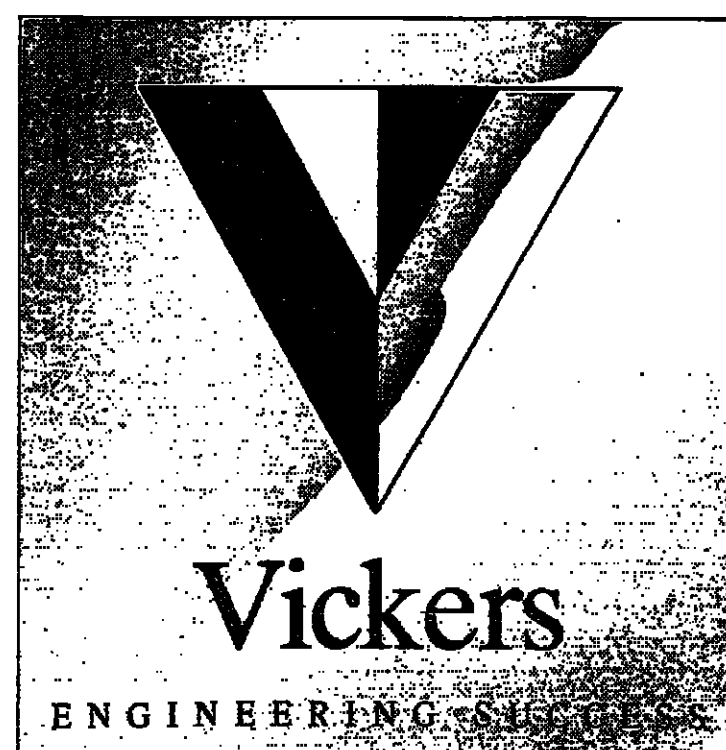
Behind this confidence lies a single-minded and continuing commitment to investing in a balanced

range of companies where the Vickers expertise, resources and philosophy of product excellence can maximise customer satisfaction, career opportunities and shareholder value.

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But when it comes to creating lasting success, as opposed to short-term gains, can you think of a better approach?

The Company.



[illegible][illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES											
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100						Three month ECUs					
Jun 80	2240.0	2250.0	2220.0	2230.0	2287	June 80	88.38	88.38	88.38	88.38	459
Sep 80	NT					July 80	88.38	88.38	88.38	88.38	122
Three Month Sterling						US Treasury Bill					
Jun 80	94.76	94.76	94.76	94.76	14605	Jun 80	92.11	92.11	92.11	92.11	470
Jul 80	94.76	94.76	94.76	94.76	14610	Jul 80	92.11	92.11	92.11	92.11	123
Three Month Eurodollar						London Gilt					
Jun 80	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	3007	Jun 80	90.01	90.01	90.01	90.01	3543
Jul 80	91.46	91.46	91.46	91.46	3007	July 80	90.01	90.01	90.01	90.01	23104
Three Month Euro Bond						Japanese Govt Bond					
Jun 80	91.46	91.46	91.46	91.46	3007	Jun 80	90.01	90.01	90.01	90.01	3543
Jul 80	91.46	91.46	91.46	91.46	3007	July 80	90.01	90.01	90.01	90.01	23104
Three Month Euro Swap						German Govt Bond					
Jun 80	91.11	91.11	91.11	91.11	1040	Jun 80	92.51	92.51	92.51	92.51	33978
Sep 80	91.11	91.11	91.11	91.11	1040	Sep 80	92.51	92.51	92.51	92.51	590
COMMODITIES											
LONDON FOX											
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE											
Official prices/vol/prev/price day											
(T/tonne)	Cash	3 months	Vol	Rate	Wt						
Copper 60 A	1985.0	1985.0	1587.0	464175	Steady						
Zinc	492.0	492.0	483.0	46355	Increase						
Lead	1643.0	1643.0	1586.0	173550	Steady						
Aluminum 99.5	2400.0	2400.0	2310.0	67000	Steady						
Nickel	8850.0	8850.0	8400.0	28000	Steady						
↑ (Cents per Troy oz.) ↓ (\$ per tonne)											
BREIT & LIVERPOOL COMMISSION											
Average market price at representative markets on 11 Sept 17											
Live Pig Contract											
Mth	Open	Close	Vol	Rate	Wt						
Oct	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Nov	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Dec	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Jan	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Feb	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Mar	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Apr	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
May	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Jun	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Jul	154.2	154.2	154.2	154.2	110						
Aug											

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 86.7 (day's range 86.5-86.7).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for April 17				
Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.3071-1.3050	1.3040-1.3020	0.96-0.9300	2.66-2.6300
London	1.3071-1.3050	1.3040-1.3020	0.96-0.9300	2.66-2.6300
Amsterdam	3.0789-3.0853	3.0813-3.0853	15-14 1/2	5-4 7/8
Brussels	58-58 1/2	58-58 1/2	71-71 1/2	71-71 1/2
Frankfurt	10.41-10.41	10.41-10.41	10-10 1/2	10-10 1/2
Dusseldorf	1.0210-1.0254	1.0244-1.0254	34-34 1/2	86-87 1/2
Frankfurt	2.73-2.7406	2.7324-2.7406	16-16 1/2	86-87 1/2
Munich	2.73-2.7406	2.7324-2.7406	16-16 1/2	86-87 1/2
Madrid	173.48-174.27	173.84-174.27	29-28 1/2	51-50 1/2
Milan	2006.94-2013.49	2011.12-2013.49	5-5 1/2	15-14 1/2
Paris	10.00-10.00	10.00-10.00	10-10 1/2	10-10 1/2
Stockholm	9.1844-9.2143	9.2009-9.2143	43-43 1/2	111-111 1/2
Switzerland	9.9440-9.9613	9.9585-9.9613	11-11 1/2	29-29 1/2
Oslo	258.00-258.00	258.00-258.00	10-10 1/2	30-30 1/2
Vienna	19.23-19.2321	19.2319-19.2321	10-10 1/2	30-30 1/2
Zurich	2.4392-2.4349	2.4328-2.4349	17-17 1/2	35-35 1/2

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina sterling	£210.16-£231.50
Australia	£2.00-£2.13 1/2
Bahian	£0.9035-£0.9175
Brazil cruzeiro	£8.1116-£7.8000
Canada	£0.7030-£0.7030
Finland markka	£4.6440-£3.5000
French franc	£264.16-£267.35
Hong Kong dollar	£12.6800-£12.6800
Italian lira	£20.28-£20.28 1/2
Netherlands guilder	£4.0735-£4.0735
New Zealand dollar	£0.4510-£0.4510
Portugal escudo	£20.07-£20.07
South Africa rand	£3.0753-£3.0753
Swedish krona	£1.0375-£1.0375
Sri Lanka rupee	£4.6426-£4.6426
Taiwan dollar	£1.0375-£1.0375
U.S. dollar	£1.0375-£1.0375
Yugoslav dinar	£1.0375-£1.0375

*"Loys Bank Rates supplied by

Base Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hair 15%		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Discount Market Rates %		Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Overnight %	10.00 %	Dollar	7.00 %	8.00 %	8.00 %	8.00 %
1 Week %	14.00 %	Deutsche	8.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
1 Month %	14.00 %	Swiss	8.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
3 Month %	14.00 %	French Franc	10.00 %	10.00 %	10.00 %	10.00 %
6 Month %	14.00 %	Italian Lira	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
9 Month %	14.00 %	Spanish Ptas	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
1 Year %	14.00 %	Portuguese Escudo	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
2 Year %	14.00 %	Belgian Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
3 Year %	14.00 %	Dutch Guilder	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
4 Year %	14.00 %	Austrian Schilling	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
5 Year %	14.00 %	Swedish Krona	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
6 Year %	14.00 %	Norwegian Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
7 Year %	14.00 %	Finland Mark	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
8 Year %	14.00 %	Denmark Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
9 Year %	14.00 %	Irish Punt	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
10 Year %	14.00 %	Portuguese Escudo	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
11 Year %	14.00 %	Spanish Ptas	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
12 Year %	14.00 %	Italian Lira	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
13 Year %	14.00 %	French Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
14 Year %	14.00 %	Dutch Guilder	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
15 Year %	14.00 %	Belgian Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
16 Year %	14.00 %	Austrian Schilling	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
17 Year %	14.00 %	Swedish Krona	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
18 Year %	14.00 %	Norwegian Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
19 Year %	14.00 %	Finland Mark	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
20 Year %	14.00 %	Denmark Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
21 Year %	14.00 %	Irish Punt	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
22 Year %	14.00 %	Portuguese Escudo	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
23 Year %	14.00 %	Spanish Ptas	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
24 Year %	14.00 %	Italian Lira	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
25 Year %	14.00 %	French Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
26 Year %	14.00 %	Dutch Guilder	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
27 Year %	14.00 %	Belgian Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
28 Year %	14.00 %	Austrian Schilling	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
29 Year %	14.00 %	Swedish Krona	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
30 Year %	14.00 %	Norwegian Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
31 Year %	14.00 %	Finland Mark	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
32 Year %	14.00 %	Denmark Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
33 Year %	14.00 %	Irish Punt	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
34 Year %	14.00 %	Portuguese Escudo	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
35 Year %	14.00 %	Spanish Ptas	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
36 Year %	14.00 %	Italian Lira	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
37 Year %	14.00 %	French Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
38 Year %	14.00 %	Dutch Guilder	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
39 Year %	14.00 %	Belgian Franc	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
40 Year %	14.00 %	Austrian Schilling	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
41 Year %	14.00 %	Swedish Krona	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
42 Year %	14.00 %	Norwegian Krone	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %	9.00 %
43 Year %	14.00 %					

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MOORGATE 01-638-7003

SENIOR SUPERVISOR
£18,000

HOT BORN 01-420 2001

FOUR WEEKS HOLIDAY
£15,250

OCRAIITE VOUR BUREAU

PROGRAMME YOUR FUTURE
£15,000

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 01-225-1777

PA TO MD
£14,000

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD 01-734-5675

KEEP FTF
\$13,500

VICTORIA 01-828-6004

Please call DeMott/Candidates for more details on 631-4978 (ext. 2222).

DRAKE PERSONNEL**Professional guidance and positive results!****PA IN PR****£14-£15,000**

Young dynamic Finance Director requires team spirit assistant to help. A challenging and rewarding position using skills you never even knew you had in order to maintain his successful business. Good WP/Admin skills and a strong personality are extremely important. Call Amanda Dobbs on 01-629 4031.

BOND STREET
01-629 4031**SECRETARY - RESEARCH****KNIGHTSBRIDGE - TO £10,000**

Don't be tied to a desk! Get out and about on campus & meet people. This organisation offers full training on WP working with executives in this cheerful set up. 45wpm typing, lots of initiative and organisation skills. 30+ days holiday. Sports centre, travel loans, immediate non-cont pension, sub. rest. + 2 increases p.a. Good spelling and grammar please! Call Sue Skinner on 01-589 5898.

CITY
01-623 1226**FULHAM****£15,000+**

Challenging and satisfying role as a Senior Secretary for two directors in an up-market software company. Daily shorthand and WP (Wang-type), client liaison, international travel arrangements and meetings to be arranged. Modern business park with ample parking available. Call Anne Sutherland-Fraser on 01-945 9787.

HAMMERSMITH
01-945 9787**MARKETING SEC****£15-£18,000**

Your dynamic, personality & ex-orig skills will be valued by the Vice-President of this fast expanding int'l co. based in SW1. Total involvement in all aspects of marketing & the app to travel, being confident, well-spoken, with superb presentation, you will enjoy liaising at all levels. A very small sec content (30% typ) using your ex-orig WP skills & rusty sh. Need a challenge? Call Anne Sutherland-Fraser on 01-945 9787.

HOLBORN
01-581 0666**SHORTHAND SEC****£12,500**

A social club, PPP, LV, int fire STL and life insurance are the benefits you receive whilst looking after a team of 3 key managers in this young luxury Oil company based in Piccadilly. Accurate secretarial skills (Shorthand and WP) a good sense of humour and the ability to use your initiative will be the keys to your success. Call Anne Sutherland-Fraser on 01-945 9787.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
01-589 5999**RUN THE SHOW****SHEPHERDS BUSH £14,000**

With your role as PA to the MD within this lucrative business of outdoor jewellery and accessories, you will be able to utilise your bookkeeping (Tial Balance) and WP skills to enjoy a position of responsibility, variety and total job satisfaction. The location is in a secluded house with parking and easy access to the road and rail. Call Richard Fox on 01-586 9757.

VICTORIA
01-534 6388**BENEFITS - YOU GET?****£13,000**

Make the move into this Financial Services organisation. The lady applicant will be qualified in O-Level English & Maths with secretarial skills including shorthand, typing, previously used with a life-cycle organisation. Benefits include: First class, 3 years back, sub. rest, WP/STL, staff discounts, share & savings scheme. An opportunity not to be missed! Call Debbie Thell on 01-534 6388.

WEST END
01-734 0011**OPPORTUNITIES IN PERSONNEL**

We have excellent opportunities for secretaries interested in gaining experience in the field of personnel.

PA to Personnel Director**£14-15,000**

This is a demanding role providing vital administrative and secretarial support to the Director of Personnel. In addition to first class secretarial skills including shorthand, you should have the confidence and flair to liaise with senior people both within the council and externally.

You should have a flexible and committed approach and be willing to work on your own initiative. Ref: ALB1.

Secretaries**£12-13,000**

Working in a Personnel team your main duties will include confidential typing and general administrative duties.

You should have good all-round secretarial skills (shorthand not necessary). Ref: ALB2.

In addition to an attractive salary with a twice-yearly bonus, free health insurance, flexible hours, good holidays and subsidised lunches, we offer a friendly working environment, with the latest technology, located close to Kensington High Street.

To apply call Karen Allman on 01-937 9336 (fax: 01-937 8612) today up to 6pm to arrange an immediate interview quoting the appropriate reference.

We are an equal opportunity employer.



The Town Hall
Hornton Street
London W8 7NX

MAGAZINE PUBLISHING**£11,500**

This prestigious West End publishing house is looking for a capable, mature PA to work for their Director of Subscriptions. Apart from the normal PA duties and general running of the office there will be a variety of projects for which you will have sole responsibility. You will deal with a mass of telephone calls from readers, manage any distribution problems, check copy and liaise with your colleagues working on all of the titles the company publishes. Fast shorthand and typing of 50 wpm (ideally over 25 wpm) call Sue or Daniela for more information/interview.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY
RECRUITMENT
Suite 3M, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

FAMOUS CHARITY**£12,500**

Excellent opportunity to become very involved with this well known charity (with Royal connections) who constantly feature in the press and are advertised extensively all over the country. Working as PA to one of their most valuable managers you will liaise regularly with their regional co-ordinators, compare correspondence, organise a hectic schedule of meetings and undertake a variety of administrative tasks. Fast and accurate shorthand and typing skills plus good shorthand and typing. Call Sue or Daniela for more information/interview.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY
RECRUITMENT
Suite 3M, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2



JOYCE GUINNESS

01 589 8807

HARROW**£15,000 + profits**

Ambitious High Flying PA has 20's early 30's offered responsibility and job growth with MD of expanding PLC. Good shorthand typing and WP. Therapy essential. Ability to stand in at important meetings, co-ordinate projects and prepare presentations for clients. A good education, experience and personal presentation very important. Free car park and excellent company benefits.

APRES EASTER

Come out of your shell and take a look at our world full of opportunities. We're here to welcome you and to give you the benefit of our expertise and contacts with top employers in all disciplines. Our help will secure your future.

PART TIME PA**£13,800+**

Profound Personality with interests ranging through finance, publishing, music, country pursuits and every other activity needs a highly competent PA 25+. Good shorthand typing including shorthand. Goodly confident able to support him in all aspects keeping track of his commitments, correspondence and prioritising a tight schedule. Proficiency Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Excellent for some-one within easy distance of Chelsea.

JOYCE GUINNESS

01 589 8807

PA to Chief Executive**Up to £14,700****Pay Award Pending**

A unique opportunity for an experienced, organised PA/Administrator to play an active part in our senior management team by providing full secretarial support to the Secretary Registrar and the President.

The successful candidate will possess excellent shorthand, keyboard and word processing skills, together with the commitment and initiative to enjoy a dynamic role. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are equally essential for this top level post. Previous experience in committee work (including minute taking) would be an advantage.

Benefits are extensive and include 25 days holiday, flexi-time, subsidised staff restaurant and contributory pension scheme. For an application form please write or telephone, quoting job reference JF/1, to Vivienne March, Personnel Manager. Answerphone available. Closing date for applications: 3 May 1990. Smoking is actively discouraged.

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY**OF GREAT BRITAIN****1 Lambeth High Street****London SE1 7JN****Telephone 01-735 9141 ext. 373****Elite Reception****£11,000 - £14,000**

Many of our high profile, immensely successful clients in Fashion, Retail, PR, Management Consulting, Advertising, PR and the Legal and Art worlds are currently seeking polished, professional individuals to play leading roles in the smooth running of their busy Reception areas. Being the very first point of contact for many of their VIP clients, they are seeking PR-orientated "diplomats" who combine effective communication skills with poise, charm and a cheerful disposition. Some positions need typing, many don't. Both City and West End locations. For details, telephone us in confidence, on 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Creative Career Moves...

TV? Film? PR? Video? Advertising? Marketing? Design? If you're looking for an out-of-the-ordinary role, why not make your next career move a creative one? With 12 months experience and good secretarial skills you could earn around £12,000 with generous benefits. Talk with us today on 01-409 1232 to find out more.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry**PA/SECRETARY TO TWO VICE PRESIDENTS AND OFFICE MANAGER**

The MAC Group is an International Management Consultancy based in central London and we are currently seeking a PA/Secretary to two Vice Presidents and our Office Manager.

Educated to at least "A" level standard, applicants will be highly motivated with at least 3 years' experience. Excellent secretarial, shorthand and audio skills are all necessary. You should have experience working for a number of people simultaneously on this is not a "one to one" boss/secretary position. Your day will be varied with a high level of administrative and confidential work. You must have the ability to liaise at all levels.

In return for the above qualifications we can offer a good salary and benefits package, commensurate with age and experience. To discuss this position further, please call Stephanie Staden on 01-493 1998. Alternatively please forward your c.v. to Stephanie Staden, The MAC Group (UK) Limited, 22 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LD.

(NO AGENCIES)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**£16,000**

You will assist the two directors of this international company to run the London Headquarters. As manager of the office you will undertake all admin duties plus giving your experienced secretarial support when necessary. Duties include organising press conferences and briefings. Shorthand 90 wpm and WP knowledge.

Age 25 to 45.

Call Lynn Lait on

486 6957 at

ZARAK Rec Cons.

Zarak Partnership

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?**SECRETARY £14,000**

A highly successful and prestigious Financial Company based in the City, now has an excellent opportunity for a confident and energetic individual.

A key member of a busy administrative team, you will essentially be providing secretarial support to the Senior Partner and other members of his team.

With at least 2 years' experience, ideally gained in a fast-moving environment, you will have sound secretarial skills (80/50) and auto, together with a good general standard of education. The ability to work effectively under pressure and on your own initiative is essential, as are excellent communication and presentation skills.

In return for your enthusiasm and commitment, you'll receive a great salary and benefits, plus all the scope you need to develop and progress.

Age 22+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491**ANGELA MORTIMER**

Recruitment Consultants

Small Pharmaceutical Company**Secretary****circa £11,000**

Our young Pharmaceutical company is looking for a confident and enthusiastic secretary. You will work with a small team to provide a comprehensive service to the Company's Management and Research staff with potential for development into a Personal Assistant to the Executive Director. Ideally candidates will have a proven record with at least two years' experience. Knowledge of M.S. Word and auto, together with a good general standard of education, is desirable.

If you feel you would enjoy working within this busy and varied environment we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Janine Kennedy, Tel: 797-8282 (Fax: 274-6007) for further details. It is requested that interviewees will call on 30 April - 2 May. Applications are due to be received by 26 April 1990.

Call Lynn Lait on 486 6957 at ZARAK Rec Cons.



TELEVISION

£13,500

Working in a television company with a young and busy team, you will be working at director level within their marketing dept. The position involves lots of telephone work, screening calls and dealing with enquiries, as well as providing secretarial support. If you have 25+ typing (very accurate) with a mature, professional work background - Call Julie Simmons on 01-629-1541.

MOVE INTO PR**£12,000**

An exciting opportunity has arisen within the international sporting events organisation. You will be involved in organising, planning and executing all aspects of the company's PR and marketing activities. If you have the ability to work on your own initiative, can communicate effectively and work under pressure, then call on 01-629-1541.

BERKELEY APPOINTMENTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PARAMOUNT HOUSE 104 - 108

OXFORD STREET LONDON W1M 0FA

REALISE YOUR POTENTIAL

Are you a secretary whose skills and potential are not being realised?

We are a progressive firm of Construction Consultants situated in Victoria and we require a secretary 25+ with excellent skills to take a step up in their career.

Wordstar and DPT experience preferred but not essential.

Salary circa £12,500 + benefits

Apply with full C.V. to:

Ann Dwyer

Belvedere Pavilions

Construction Consultants

27 Euston Street

London, SW1W 9NP

(NO AGENCIES)

ARTS SPONSORSHIP**c. £14,000**

World renowned Arts Organisation seeks PA to work closely with newly appointed Director. You will be involved with organising special events, corporate sponsorship and gala theatrical evenings. Your strong organisational and communication skills will be used to the full in daily contact with high profile figures in the world of commerce and the arts. You'll need skills of 80/50, be a confident, energetic person to take the initiative as part of an enthusiastic team.

JUDY FISHER**ASSOCIATES****01-437 2277**

Recruitment Consultants

Pansophic Systems Europe Ltd

Is an international software company in

Uxbridge, seeking two highly motivated and

enthusiastic secretaries to support a

multinational sales team in a dynamic and

professional environment.

Excellent skills and experience necessary.

Languages advantageous. Good salary and

benefits.

Applications to: Parkside Recruitment

225 High Street

Uxbridge

Tel: 0895 53007

Fax: 0895 812111.

Call Sallyanne Brady or Sally Owens

on 235 8427 - 31A Sloane St. SW1.

Move into P.R.**£12,000 + Bonus**

Move into the exciting and hectic world of PR. Our client, one of the world's largest PR companies, is looking for a young bubbly secretary to join them. Working on famous-name accounts you will be helping a team to co-ordinate PR events, liaise with the media and produce press releases. If you are aged between 18 and 24 with 50 wpm typing please call Lynne Dawson on 01-437-6032.

HOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretaries - step into the media spotlight

Approach the media specialists and you could

land a top secretarial job in film, TV, PR, design,

publishing or advertising. We have parts on offer

for highly skilled and motivated applicants and

career advice for the less committed.

In this business, it's who you know that

counts; get to know us on 01-489 6568.

P/A Secretary**£16,000 + Mortgage****Salary****+ Bonus**

Position in a busy and successful

company. You'll need a good

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Maine-Tucker

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.....
College Leaver

Circa £12,000 (brilliant perks & 10am Start)

Have you high hopes for your first job? Do you want something really special? This company is also setting its hopes high and it's a heart is set on a special College Leaver - could this be you? It won't necessarily be the person with the fastest speed in the world, but someone who is earnest and sincere and keen to learn. From their beautiful offices in St James's, SW1, they create exquisite buildings and mastermind incredible promotional stunts to publicize them. This job will give you the confidence, and the training to go on & do Great things. If you have 80/45 & have Great Expectations call Caroline Sykes or Louise Tams.

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1X 5LB Telephone 01-425 8548

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£11,500 + 7 WEEKS HOLIDAY
+ AMAZING FREE LUNCHES

It's the Annual Extravaganza Ball... take to the dance floor and let your hair down... everyone is enjoying themselves... and it's all thanks to your inspired ideas... tomorrow you will be on the next project, one of many grand dinners, always with a fascinating speaker... or perhaps an Exhibition. Dash about with your bright spark of a boss who has every good reason to be proud of a charismatic and vibrant Assistant. No two days are ever the same, the work is an exciting challenge - you are constantly coordinating lots of young lively people AND all you need to seize this fabulous opportunity is 45wpm typing and boundless enthusiasm!

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1X 5LB Telephone 01-425 8548

Maine-Tucker

The College Leaver Specialists
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Millions poured into waterways

Waterside locations are as attractive to companies seeking commercial property as it is to home-buyers, a fact recognized by the Central Manchester Development Corporation, whose land in the centre of the city is threaded by an extensive canal and river system, albeit neglected for years.

The corporation intends to unlock the waterside development potential by spending about £2.5 million over the next 18 months on cleaning and maintenance. Of this, £1.8 million will be spent on dredging and canal repairs and the remainder on landscaping, new towpaths and lighting.

Already the corporation has spent £200,000 on refurbishing the Rochdale Canal, including replacing a huge water plug.

Many other projects are in progress or planned. Next September, work on the £5.5 million refurbishment of Lee House, a Grade II listed building overlooking the Great Bridgewater Canal, will be completed to give 107,000sq ft of office space. June will see the completion of the Castlefield Hotel, which overlooks the canal basin.

To the east of the city centre, formerly the heartland of industrial Manchester, the first phase of the £10.5 million Piccadilly Village scheme is nearing comple-

Manchester's canal network is being smartened up to take ambitious new developments

tion. Set on the banks of the Ashton Canal, it will include 125 houses and flats, 15 craft studios, shops and 16,000sq ft of new office space. The development, on a six-acre site of derelict and under-used land, is a joint venture between Trafford Park Estates and Moran Holdings.

Alongside the Ashton Canal Basin, Avator, the property development company established by London and Edinburgh Trust and Balfour Beatty, is refurbishing the Grade II listed Ducie Street warehouse. This will create 140,000sq ft of studio/office accommodation. A floating creperie forms part of the scheme.

One of the most ambitious projects is the £100 million scheme at Piccadilly Harbour by the Rochdale Canal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Town Centre Securities. On a 12-acre site surrounding the Rochdale Canal, stretching from Great Ancoats Street to Piccadilly Sta-

tion, it will provide nearly 500,000sq ft of offices, about 163,000sq ft of leisure and retail space, and a 300-room hotel. A residential scheme is also planned, and it is proposed to create new canal "arms" to provide further opportunities for development.

Another imaginative scheme is at the Victoria & Albert warehouses overlooking the River Irwell, where the Granada group is to turn the old Grade II listed buildings into a 130-bedroom hotel with a conference and function centre.

At Castle Quay, the Manchester Ship Canal Company is planning a £25 million mixed development comprising a refurbished early Victorian cotton warehouse and new construction for a largely retail and leisure scheme.

The company is also to start work shortly on the first phase of a mixed office, residential, retail and leisure scheme on its 37-acre island site at Pomona Strand, on the fringes of Salford Quays.

The £100 million development is the largest single scheme in the North-West, and will provide 940,000sq ft, including about 474,000sq ft of offices and shops. It has been designed in the style of Amsterdam and Copenhagen, featuring tall, narrow buildings, and will have a light rapid transport system.



Taking the drain strain: John Glester (left), chief executive of Central Manchester Development Corporation, and David Ferry, director of the Rochdale Canal Company, pull the plug to empty the Rochdale Canal during refurbishment work

Bankers slip down office rental league

OFFICE development in central London in December was at its highest level since 1983, with 17.5 million sq ft under construction, a 19 per cent increase on the previous June, says Jones Lang Wootton in its "Central London Offices Research" report.

Despite such activity, however, there is a shortage of immediately available new space. Take-up of new space fell by 8 per cent to 2.4 million sq ft in the second half of 1989, while the take-up of previously occupied space rose by 6 per cent to 1.5 million sq ft.

The report identifies a transition in the letting market, with the banking and finance houses no longer dominating the take-up of new space.

Historically, companies from this sector have been involved in more than 40 per cent of deals by floorspace, but in 1988 this figure

fell to 36 per cent, and in 1989 declined to less than 25 per cent of the total take-up.

In their place, the professional services sector has become increasingly active, accounting for the highest proportion of take-up during 1989 at 35 per cent, compared with an average of 12 per cent during the period since 1981.

Solicitors continue to be particularly active, taking space throughout the City, with major deals including Clifford Chance taking 427,000sq ft at Wimpey Property Holding's Little Britain schemes, and Herbert Smith taking 230,000sq ft in the Rosehaugh Stanhope flagships, Exchange House, Broadgate.

In addition, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accountants, has taken the entire 350,000sq ft Greycoat-British Rail Embankment Place scheme.

IN THE MARKET

■ Thamesorb Properties has been given full planning consent for a £100 million office scheme on Kensington High Street, London. The existing building on the site, College House, in Wrights Lane, bought by Thamesorb for £28 million, will be replaced with 180,000sq ft of offices, designed by Renton Howard Wood Levine, and due for completion in mid-1992.

■ Kinson, in partnership with Guinness Mahon, has completed its £25 million mixed-use scheme in Holborn, close to Farringdon Station, London. Named Goldsmith Square, the office phase has 12 buildings in a

courtyard setting, with accommodation ranging from 1,600sq ft to 5,600sq ft, and including 34,000sq ft. It is part of a 122,000sq ft scheme including industrial and residential usage. The agents, Richard Main and Co and De Groot Colles, seek £350 per sq ft for the long leaseholds.

■ Ford Sellar Morris Properties and the Beristford Property Group have linked in a £750 million office development at Western Avenue, London. The 10.5-acre site was bought from Unigate for £16 million and has detailed planning consent for 312,500sq ft of offices and a further 130,000sq ft of B1 units.



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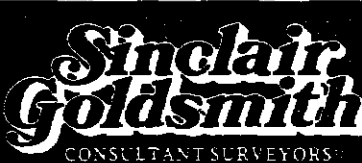
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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Home, green home

Nicole Swengley reports on the increasing range of environmentally friendly household hardware

Since the kitchen is the heart of the home, it is the place to begin making environmentally-conscious changes. Gas is more energy-efficient than electricity and produces less carbon dioxide, so it is sensible to use it where possible. Another way of saving energy is to use a microwave. Multi-function ovens, such as Bosch's Multi Micro, £1,436, and Zanussi's Microspeed, £899, which combine a microwave and small oven with full-size cooker facilities, are a good solution.

Alternatively, choose energy-efficient cookers such as AEG's new OKO 9008B model, priced at £1,870, or Zanussi's GC 5557, £569.

Many washing machines come with economy programmes using less detergent and consuming less electricity and water. Power-saving machines include Zanussi's ZFL 1011 Jet system automatic, £390, and AEG's Lavamat, £693. Sensortronic, £499, launched this month.

Bosch's Synchro Three system, from £464, and AEG's hi-tech Lavamat 2060 Turbo washer/dryer, from £799, are both energy-efficient.

Bosch's tumble dryers, WTA 2510, £455, and WTL 4210, £630, contain electronic sensors which monitor the water content of the clothes and choose the correct drying

setting, minimizing the electricity consumed.

When it comes to buying kitchen units, environmentally-conscious shoppers should avoid timbers from tropical rainforests such as mahogany, teak, ebony and rosewood. Greener alternatives are made from British, American or Scandinavian hardwoods such as oak, ash and beech by companies with a conscience such as Winchmore Furniture, (0638 669991). Remember, when (01-748 4674) and Mark Wilkinson (01-727 5814). Storm-damaged wood is recycled into roller tables on wheels at The Conran Shop (01-589 7401), and the manufacturer, Benchmark, is planting a tree for every purchase.

As for flooring, old terracotta floor tiles from £55-£75 per square yard or antique stone flags, £90-£120 per square yard, are sold at Paris Ceramics (01-228 5785). For new Spanish-made terracotta floor tiles, contact Acorn Ceramics Tiles (0432 355132). Wooden flooring using sustainable hardwoods is available from a Danish company, Junckers (0376 517512), which replaces every tree felled, powering production

with sawdust and woodchip waste.

Natural floor-coverings including sisal, seagrass, coir and rush are Crucial Trading's speciality (01-221 9000). Prices start from £12.95 per square metre for a thickly woven coir/sisal mix. Wicanders (0293 27400) offers cork floor tiles made of wine bottle cork waste.

Kitchen accessories are now available in rubberwood. This tropical hardwood comes from mature trees felled at the end of their lifetime of latex production to make way for new young trees planted one-for-one in their place. Previously, this timber was destroyed; now it is made into trays, bowls, platters, salad servers, chessboards and breadboards. Prices start from £12.98 for a 35cm plate (for information on local stockists, contact the Inter-Continental Cooking and Tableware Company, 01-847 2493). A two-tier rubberwood trolley costs £49.95, post free from Lakeland Plastics (09662 88100).

Many kinds of water filter are now available, from just-pipes by Spong and Brita, £9.99 each, to plumbed-in versions such as the American Bon Del system, from £115

(0474 325771). This year's Ideal Home Exhibition featured Doublon's in-line system, £89.99, available from larger Boots stores (0785 815241). Ecowater's electrically operated portable distiller, £199 (0753 889744) and plumbed-in models from Springer (0733 235343) and Everpure (0303 262211).

Also on show at the exhibition was the Buxton water-cooler, which dispenses sparkling water from 22-litre bottles (0494 473000).

Do-it-yourself enthusiasts, fitting shelving or cupboards might consider buying from the "green" timber merchant, Eco-Timber, which sells English hardwoods, including walnut, and offers a shelf-making service in yew, ash or oak (01-365 0222).

Ecologically friendly contemporary kitchen and living room furniture is available from Treke in Thirsk, North Yorkshire (0845 522770), which also has a London showroom at 5 Barnum Road, SW18 (01-874 0050).

For more traditional hand-made wooden furniture, contact Chartwell (0732 810285). Wesley-Barrell's sofas and armchairs are hand-made using only sustainable natural

materials (0608 810481 or 01-579 7743). Outdoors, Lister's garden furniture is both stylish and ecologically sound, thanks to the company's long-running teak replantation programmes in Indonesia (0323 840771).

Single-glazed windows are one of the largest causes of heat loss in homes. Double glazing with Pilkington K glass reduces heat loss by two thirds, reflecting it back into the room rather than allowing it to escape (0744 692307). Conservatory manufacturer Halliday installs low-emission glass in its newest models, which cut down on fuel consumption when the structure is heated. The fine, hard coating with which the glass is treated makes double glazing equivalent to triple glazing. Prices in the "Victoria" range for a single-glazed hardwood conservatory start from £39 per square foot (061 643 2058).

Other energy-saving ideas include Warmcel's loft insulation, made from 100 per cent natural cellulose fibres extracted from recycled newspaper and treated to provide protection against fire, corrosion, vermin and organic growth (0495 350655). Taking energy efficiency even further, a solar water heater such as Thermomax works surprisingly well, even in British weather (0276 66672).



No waste: rubberwood dishes made from trees felled after a lifetime of latex production

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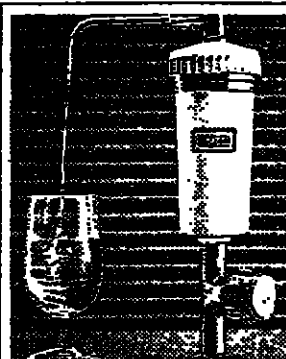
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SPORT

FA asking for UEFA's view

From Peter Ball
Malta

WITH the return of English clubs to European competition next season still dependent on English football receiving a clean bill of health from the Government, the Football Association is to ask UEFA for an independent assessment of the behaviour of English supporters at the World Cup finals in Italy this summer.

This proposal, which will be put to the UEFA meetings taking place here this week, is part of a two-pronged attack to try to prevent the kind of instant judgements, based on misleading, and sometimes hysterical, reporting which occurred during the European championship finals in West Germany in 1988. As an attempt to stop the flow of misinformation at its source, the FA is also planning to set up a permanent 'hot line' for

news reporters at its headquarters in Cagliari this summer.

UEFA has already accepted the principle of English clubs returning to Europe next season, always subject to Government support. "If Mrs Thatcher or Mr Moyaibian give the new executive committee a favourable answer on security, especially at the stadium, then perhaps the new committee would decide to allow the clubs back next season - the date already decided on by UEFA," Jacques Georges, the retiring president, confirmed on his arrival for the 20th congress, at which his successor will be appointed.

"The general consensus that everyone wants us back, and it has been for two to three years," Bert Millichamp, the chairman of the FA, said last night. "That is quite general

throughout UEFA and it was decided at the last congress that we should return.

"But on two conditions, that the English government guarantee the behaviour of the English fans abroad, and that there are no problems in Italy."

With the draws for the 1990-91 UEFA competitions due to take place only three days after the end of the World Cup finals, there will be little time for considered responses and the English football authorities are eager that any decision should be based in fact.

In 1988 the FA withdrew the application for the clubs' return after some misinformation reports of the behaviour of English supporters in West Germany, and particularly after trouble in Stuttgart following the defeat by the

Republic of Ireland. "I came under great pressure to withdraw England while the preliminary stage was still going on," Millichamp recalled yesterday.

Yet the official UEFA report in general cleared the English supporters of responsibility for the trouble, but by then the decision not to go ahead with the application for the clubs' return had already been taken by Millichamp, many believing that the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, over-reacted to newspaper headlines.

The FA hopes that the hotline will help to prevent such stories being filed in the first place. It will provide an up to date, accurate assessment of any trouble which may occur, with the Italian police, the World Cup organizers and the FA's security

officers all contributing to try and provide journalists with prompt and reliable information.

"The efforts we are making in co-operation with the Italian police means there is very little else we could do," Millichamp says. "We have covered all avenues but the trouble is that the people who want to misbehave will probably be in Italy two months before hand and stay on for a month after the World Cup. What can we do about that?"

For the moment Millichamp, however, said that the cup winners, League champions, and League runners-up should assume that they will be back in Europe next season, although clearly the likelihood of Liverpool winning the League makes an English entry in the European Cup problematic. There have been suggestions that the extra

three-year ban on Liverpool might be lifted and there is strong support for at least a lessening of the sentence, with the Italian delegation expressing its support yesterday.

That will not, however, be in time for Liverpool to take part next season. "The FA will apply for the ban on Liverpool to be relaxed," Millichamp said, "and I confidently anticipate that an application to lessen the period of the ban will be sympathetically received but that cannot happen until after the return of English clubs is accomplished."

The main concern of this congress, however, will not be the future of English football, but the election of a new president. The two candidates are the chairman of the Swedish FA, Lennart Johansson, and the president of the Swiss FA, Freddy Rumeo.

Arsenal keep jealous eye on silverware

By Louise Taylor

ARSENAL may be unable to keep the championship trophy on their own sideboard, but they still have the capacity to prevent Liverpool recovering it.

Almost 12 months since their 2-0 triumph on Merseyside in the final match last season snatched the silverware from Liverpool's grasp, Arsenal are well aware that the odds are again against them.

Liverpool, having had their hands prised off the FA Cup by Crystal Palace last week, will be reluctant to forsake another trophy by losing to Arsenal before a live television audience this evening.

Liverpool's recent record in important matches is not particularly impressive. Defeats in the 1988 FA Cup final by Wimbledon, in last year's championship decider by Arsenal, and in the FA Cup semi-final by Palace have led critics to suggest that Liverpool lose their nerve in the big matches.

Arsenal's own hopes of retaining the championship have evaporated but they might qualify for a place in the UEFA Cup if English clubs are re-admitted to Europe next season.

If Liverpool win their remaining matches Aston Villa can do no better than finish as runners-up. As Kenny Dalglish, who takes a squad of 20 to Highbury, said: "We are in the best position possible - 91 teams would swap with us."

Arsenal have found out what it is like to try to defend the championship when everyone is trying to beat them. They have had a few injuries which, if you put the two together, is probably why

DESPITE the protestations of Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, that the allocation of an extra 12,000 tickets to Manchester United for the FA Cup final at Wembley on May 12 would give them an unfair advantage akin to a goal stand, the figure (Dennis Signy writes) Palace will receive 14,000 tickets and United 26,000.

David Bloomfield, the FA's spokesman, said that calculations showed that Palace would be able to satisfy 87 per cent of this season's average attendance at Selhurst Park, whereas United would only be able to meet the needs of 63 per cent who have regularly attended Old Trafford. He added that the FA had studied the averages of the two clubs over the past three years (11,000 at Palace and 39,000 at United) before reaching their decision.

they are in the position they are, and not looking stronger."

Arsenal have also failed to translate possession and pressure into goals, and their last 10 matches have yielded only nine. George Graham, their manager, said: "It has been a very disappointing season overall, because we have not converted the chances we have had."

With Rocoastle, Marwood and Richardson still unfit, Graham names the side which drew 1-1 at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

In the second division, Plymouth Argyle aim to reduce fears of relegation by seeing off Oldham Athletic, who hope to progress to the play-offs by making maximum use of their three games in hand on the leading pack.

Hendry reduced to narrow lead

By Steve Acton

STEPHEN Hendry, after threatening to run away with his first-round Embassy world championship snooker encounter with the French-Canadian, Alain Robidoux, ended the opening period only 5-4 ahead yesterday at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. The match resumes this evening.

Hendry is not only seeking to supplant Steve Davis as both world champion and world No. 1, he is also hoping to supersede Alex Higgins as the youngest world champion.

Robidoux, ranked 35th but on the fringe of a place in the top 16 next season, missed the final green twice to surrender the opening frame and two missed reds in the second were severely punished by Hendry's breaks of 35 and 83.

After taking frame three with a run of 32, Robidoux missed a marvellous chance to level at 2-2. Hendry missed a simple red, leading 5-10, Robidoux recovered to 56-47 behind, but then missed the blue and went in-off.

Hendry's break of 54 put him 4-1 ahead but, after compiling a second half-century in the sixth to lead 57-32, Hendry jawed the last red and

Robidoux cleared to black with 33.

He followed this success with a brown-to-pink clearance to cut his deficit to one frame, Hendry responding with a break of 94 to move 5-3 ahead in the last frame of the period, Robidoux, 58-49 behind, successfully snookered Hendry on the final brown and cleared to pink to cut the deficit to one.

A year ago Hendry was embroiled in another tense first-round match when Gary Wilkinson recovered from 7-3 behind before losing 10-9. Yesterday Wilkinson was threatening to repeat his heroics against John Virgo.

But after winning the first four frames to stand only one behind, Wilkinson snookered himself on the blue to lose the fourth frame, which proved his eventual undoing.

RESULTS: First round (England unless stated): A Knowles 12-4 A Chappell, 10-4; W Jones (Wales) 10-5; S-H Hendry (Scotland) 10-4; A Robidoux (Canada) 5-4; J Virgo 10-9; G Wilkinson, 10-9; S-H Hendry's last match D Morgan (Wales) 10-4; J Johnson, 10-4.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: Stage First round (post of 19 frames): J White v D Foster, 4-1 ahead; 2nd round (19 frames): D Hendry v A Higgins, 5-4; 3rd round (19 frames): D Hendry v J Parnett, first round; 4th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v S-J Jones, 5-4; 5th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 6th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 7th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 8th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 9th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 10th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 11th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 12th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 13th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 14th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 15th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 16th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 17th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 18th round (19 frames): S-H Hendry v A Robidoux, 5-4; 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